

Farmers may get relief for sugarcane crop loss

Insurers said the coverage was only against accidents



Support:Collector E. Saravanelraj distributing hybrid seeds among farmers at the grievance redress meeting in Ariyalur on Friday.

ARIYALUR, November 23, 2013 - Farmers' representatives made a plea for

payment of compensation for sugarcane loss caused by drought in Ariyalur district at the monthly meeting held to hear their grievances here on Friday.

Farmers said that when the State government had declared all districts as drought-hit, insurance companies refused to entertain the request for compensation for sugarcane crop. The contention of the insurance companies was that insurance for sugarcane crop was against accidents, they said. Officials told the farmers that compensation would be given for loss of sugarcane crop if the government made an announcement in this regard.

On the request made by Arumugam, State deputy secretary of Tamil Nadu Vivasaya Sangam, for water release from Vettaikudi lake to Senathipathi and Mudikondan villages, officials responded by saying that it would now be possible to release water as vegetation on the supply canal had been removed.

V. Viswanathan, district secretary of Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam, called for the removal of vegetation from water bodies as they would be a cause for the spread of foot-and-mouth disease among cattle. He wanted the wild growth of juliflora (Neyveli Kattamanakku) in water bodies during dry season to be curtailed. The dead trees that floated in water during rainy season contaminated the water body on which the cattle fed.

He took exception to the display of photographs of farmers outside branches of nationalised banks, especially in Jayamkondam, for crop loan default. He said the banks should understand that farmers were not able to repay the loans in time because of crop failure caused by drought and it was not wilful.

Collector E. Saravanelraj said that Ariyalur district had recorded deficit rainfall so far this year. Till November, it had received 523.6 mm against the average annual rainfall of 954 mm. In 2012, the district recorded 689.15 mm of rainfall. He said that paddy had been planted on 20,200 hectares of land and the kuruvai crop harvested on 1,722 hectares of land, according to an official release.

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- ☐ ***Insurance companies had rejected their claim for relief***
 - ☐ ***So far, the district has received deficient rainfall this year***
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Farmers hold protest demanding compensation for loss of cattle



Survey to enumerate cattle deaths caused due to foot-and-mouth disease sought

BOVINE PROTEST:Farmers staging a demonstration demanding compensation for their dead cattle at Chinnakulam near Somarasampettai in Tiruchi district on Friday— PHOTO: R.M. RAJARATHINAM

TIRUCHI, November 23, 2013 - A group of

farmers from villages in and around Somarasampettai, about 15 km from here, staged a demonstration at Chinnakulam village demanding enumeration of deaths of head of cattle caused by foot-and-mouth disease and sanction of compensation to the affected farmers. The farmers had come with their animals, some of them said to be affected by the viral disease, to stage the demonstration at the village.

Puliyur A. Nagarajan, president, Tamil Nadu Horticulture Crop Producers Association, who led the agitation, said the government should sanction a compensation of Rs. 30,000 for every cow and Rs. 10,000 for every goat which had died because of the disease.

Claiming that quite a few animals had died because of the disease in Puliyur, Posampatti, Vayalur, Somarasampettai, and Thayanur areas, Mr. Nagarajan alleged that village administrative officers were refusing to register the deaths attributing them to the disease. "They are demanding post-mortem certificates from veterinarians and the affected farmers cannot run around to get the formalities done. The Revenue Department should carry out a thorough enumeration and register the deaths," he said.

He demanded that the Animal Husbandry Department intensify its measures to prevent spread of the disease.

When contacted, a senior district officer maintained that there had been only three deaths of head of cattle in the district so far because of the disease.

There was no death due to the disease in the villages cited by the agitators, they said and added that the deaths of animals owing to other reasons in the recent past are now attributed to foot-and-mouth disease.

Officials disagree

Joint Director of Animal Husbandry I. Chinnadurai said he had personally visited many of the villages where the animals were said to be affected by the disease.

There had been no deaths in the villages because of the disease and about 60 ailing animals were responding well to treatment.

Affected animals were recovering within two to three days on treatment. Deaths, if any, could be attributed to the foot-and-mouth disease only after post-mortem, he said.

He reiterated that the situation in the district was under control thanks to the massive vaccination drive. Only animals in advanced pregnancy and calves that were less than three months old, which were not vaccinated, were affected now, he said.

Farmers for assessment of crop failure

TUTICORIN, November 23, 2013 - Farmers sought the intervention of officials for prompt assessment of crop failure across the district to extend relief. With just a month and a few days left, there has been only scanty rainfall so far and it had not benefited agriculturists, farmers said at the grievance redressal meeting convened here on Friday.

Collector M. Ravikumar, who presided over the meeting, said Tuticorin district had received only 289 mm rainfall. Only twenty five percent of the average rainfall was received this year. He said water from water bodies had to be utilised for the ensuing agricultural season. Of the fifty three system tanks, twelve had been filled up until November 21 and the remaining tanks were expected to reach the mark in a week. From Sadayaneri channel, water would be released once its storage reached 9.7 feet. Meanwhile, the Collector appealed to the farmers to adopt drip irrigation method. V. Krishnamurthi, a farmer from Ettayapuram, said crops had started withering sans water and sought details of crop insurance scheme.

K.P. Perumal, district secretary, Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, alleged that poor quality seeds for maize and sorghum crops had been sold by companies and sought action against the sellers.

District Revenue Officer R. Muthu, Joint Director of Agriculture N.K. Dhakshinamoorthy, Sub Collector of Kovilpatti K. Vijaya Karthikeyan, Personal Assistant to Collector (Agriculture) Kanagaraj and officials attended.

902 modern farm equipment distributed

VELLORE, November 23, 2013 - A total of 902 modern agricultural equipment worth Rs.371.23 lakh have been distributed to farmers in Vellore district at a subsidy ranging from 25 to 50 per cent under the farm mechanisation scheme in the past two years, according to a release from R. Nandagopal, Collector of Vellore.

Grants to the tune of Rs.152.25 lakh have been received for the supply of 1,389 modern agricultural equipment to farmers of the district during 2013-14. This comprised a subsidy of Rs.136.80 lakh for supply of 1,360 equipment to general category farmers and Rs.15.45 lakh for 29 equipment to Adi Dravidar/tribal farmers. The equipment are being supplied to farmers in phases.

The Collector distributed modern agricultural equipment worth Rs.81.42 lakh to 35 farmers at a monthly agricultural grievances day meeting held at the Collectorate here on Friday. They comprised 15 mini tractors, 16 power tillers, two weeding equipment, a paddy transplanter and one multi-grain harvester. Of the total amount, the subsidy component constituted Rs.31.723 lakh.

Once the remaining equipment are supplied, the total number of modern equipment supplied to farmers by the end of the financial year would go up to 2,326 at a cost of Rs.604.90 lakh.

The Collector said that a three-month training was given to rural youth through the Department of Agricultural Engineering to maintain and service the modern agricultural equipment. Fifty youth each were trained in 2011-12 and 2012-13 at a cost of Rs.14.30 lakh. In order to popularise modern agricultural equipment, a farmers' committee comprising 16 rural youth and farmers was constituted and given four transplanter, four power tillers and four weeding equipment on a 100 per cent subsidy, at a total cost of Rs.12 lakh. The committee not only supplied the equipment on rent to the farmers but also undertook the work of paddy transplantation on contract basis. Another committee would be constituted and training given to the rural youth and farmers during the current financial year.

SAP announced but cane farmers wait for order

Government not concerned about farmer welfare, accuses Samiti



President of Bheema Nadi Neeru Horata Samiti Panchappa Kalburgi displaying the agreement paper of sugar factory owners in Bijapur on Friday.

BIJAPUR, November 23, 2013 - Accusing the government of betraying sugarcane farmers, Panchappa Kalburgi, president of Bheema Nadi Neeru Horata Samiti,

said the government has not issued the Government Order (GO) even after 12 days of announcing State Advisory Price (SAP) for sugarcane.

Addressing presspersons here on Friday, he said on November 10, the Chief Minister had convened an emergency meeting wherein he announced SAP of Rs. 2,500 per tonne for sugarcane.

"But even after convening the emergency meeting, pretending that the government has great concern for sugarcane farmers, no GO has been issued even after 12 days . Why the government is playing this game with farmers when the sugarcane crop has already crossed the harvest season," he said.

Mr. Kalburgi also accused factories of forcibly getting the agreement paper signed from farmers mentioning the factories would pay only Rs. 1,800 per tonne and not Rs. 2,500 per tonne announced by the government.

Agreement form

Displaying an agreement form, he said factory owners of Bijapur, Gulbarga, and Yadgir districts were threatening that they would not take the sugarcane to their factories if the farmers do not sign on the agreement paper.

"Such act is nothing but a blatant violation of the SAP act. By not complying with SAP, factory owners are challenging the might of the government, and the government seems to be in a helpless position," Mr. Kalburgi asserted. He said most farmers who were unaware of the decision taken by the government, were being exploited by sugar factory owners.

Stating that the delay in crushing had already caused damage to the crop, he said owing to the delay of nearly two months in harvesting, the sugarcane crop had already lost ten per cent weight.

Demanding the government to take suitable action against the factories that were defying the order,

Mr. Kalburgi said hundreds of farmers would gherao Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on November 23 when he was expected to visit Bagalkot, while the farmers will gherao Agriculture Minister, Krishna Byre Gowda who is coming to Bijapur on November 24. Panchappa Kalburgi, president of Bheema Nadi Neeru Horata Samiti, has urged sugarcane farmers not to sign any agreement papers asked by factories for procuring the sugarcane for crushing.

Stating that the agreement papers were against the norms, he said farmers, in their own interest, must desist from signing any agreement papers given by factory owners.

Farmers unhappy over delay in setting up procurement centres

DAVANGERE, November 23, 2013 - *Plans agitation against district administration on November 26*

B.M. Sathish, B. Nageshwara Rao and Lokikere Basavarajaiah, former Presidents of the Davangere Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), along with farmers' leaders have strongly condemned the district administration for not setting up procurement centres to purchase paddy and maize.

Speaking to presspersons here on Friday, Mr. Sathish said the State government had issued a circular on October 22 instructing the district administration to set up procurement centres immediately. The government had also instructed the district administration to depute officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Animal husbandry. Despite the Order, the district administration failed to take steps to set up procurement centers, he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Davangere district S.T. Anjan Kumar had also, on two occasions, said that procurement centres would be opened in eight different places in the district at the earliest. But, so far no centre had been set up in the district to purchase maize and paddy, Mr. Sathish said adding that the DC was giving false promises without taking a firm stand despite the government Order.

He said that the inordinate delay in setting up procurement centres had led farmers to sell their crop for a lower price in the open market to meet daily expenses. Traders had exploited the situation and purchased the crops at a nominal price. "If the delay in setting up the centres continues, crop harvesting would come to an end and farmers would be forced to sell their crops at prevailing market price", Mr. Sathish said. Farmers would resort to agitation from November 26 if the district administration failed to set up procurement centres in the next four days, he said.

Demanding that the government give a minimum support price of Rs.2,000 for a quintal of paddy and Rs.1,800 for a quintal of maize, the former Presidents of the APMC said that farmers would get a marginal profit if they were given these prices for their crops.

'Government for farmers' welfare'

GULBARGA, November 23, 2013 - Need to adopt latest technology in agriculture stressed Minister for Municipal Administration and Waqf and in- charge of the district Qamar-ul Islam has said that the State government was committed to the welfare of farmers and protection of their interests is high on its agenda.

Inaugurating the district Krishi Utsav here on Friday, Mr Islam said that the government had introduced several schemes for the welfare of farmers and taking required measures to transfer latest technology and improved agricultural practices to farmland.

Organising such utsavs was part of the government's commitment to create awareness about the need to adopt latest technology in agriculture and diversify into horticulture, sericulture, fisheries and integrated agriculture system to increase farmers' income.

Farmers should take the help of scientists in Krishi Vigyan Kendras and improve yields by treating the soil as suggested by scientists, he said.

Aland MLA B.R. Patil spoke.

Adopt innovative techniques, farmers told at Krishi Mela



B.V. Patil, Vice-Chancellor of UAS-Raichur, explaining innovative farming techniques during the field trip organised as part of the Krishi Mela in Bellary on Friday.

SIRGUPPA, November 23, 2013 - Hundreds of farmers, including women, participated in the Krishi Mela held at the Agricultural Research Station (ARS) in Sirguppa on Friday, to gain knowledge

about advanced farming techniques.

B.M. Nagaraj, Sirguppa MLA, inaugurated the Krishi Mela, organised by ARS in association with the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) Raichur, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and the Department of Agriculture.

Speaking on the occasion, B.V. Patil, Vice-Chancellor, UAS, explained the importance of integrated farming and exhorted farmers to adopt the technique. He also stressed the need to reduce the dependence on chemical fertilizer and increase the use of organic manure.

"The doors of agricultural universities will be always be open and scientists and researchers are willing to offer suggestions to farmers. My appeal to the farmers is that to undertake qualitative and remunerative farming, by making use of improved farm technology and suggestions of agricultural scientists," Mr. Patil said.

K. Ramanna, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture, underlined the need for farmers to adopt innovative farming techniques and methods to get more yield with minimum use of chemical fertilizer.

He also explained about the various schemes provided by the government to promote cultivation and increased quality food production in the form of subsidies. "I am happy to say that the use of chemical fertilizer is on the decline in the district. It is also heartening to note that farmers are adopting new methods of cultivation," he said.

Sugarcane crushing begins amid farmers' protest

CHITTOOR, November 23, 2013 - *Chittoor District Cooperative Sugars yet to release pending payment for the previous year*

Sugarcane crushing for the year 2013-14 commenced at the Chittoor District Cooperative Sugars here on Friday, amid protest by sugarcane growers from the surrounding mandals, demanding release of the pending payment for the previous year.

The factory management and staff along with farmers from the mandals of Chittoor and Puthalapattu Assembly constituencies conducted pujas on the factory premises. Formally, a tonne of sugarcane was crushed at the carrier unit centre on Friday.

The officials predict crushing of about 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of sugarcane for the current year, with about 15,000 sugarcane growers as shareholders.

The farmers deplored that payment to the tune of Rs.7 crore for the year 2012-13 has not been cleared, and the MSP for the current year was not yet fixed, though the crushing commenced.

Earlier, the farmers thronged the chambers of the factory managing director, D.

Venkateswara Rao, and staged a protest, demanding immediate steps to clear payment for the previous year. They sought Mr. Rao to take the plight of the sugarcane growers to the notice of the Collector. After heated arguments for a while, the matter was amicably settled with due assurance from the officials to the farmers that their demands would be looked into.

The farmers of these two constituencies have to depend on this cooperative sugars due to non-availability of private units. They deplored that even if they want to reach out to private factories at Punganur and Nagari, it involved huge costs towards transportation.

Farmers demand Chittoor District Cooperative Sugars to release pending payment for the previous year

Farmers' plea to Collector: don't enforce crop holiday

ELURU, November 23, 2013 - Collector Siddharth Jain was confronted with pleas from paddy growers against enforcement of crop holiday in rabi season during his visit to several villages hit by the Cyclone Helen in Narsapur and Mogaltur mandals in West Godavari district on Friday.

Even as the district administration was mulling a crop holiday in rabi to accelerate the delta modernisation works, the farmers, whose crops in the khariff got heavily damaged by Cyclone Phailin and now, Cyclone Helen, in a short span of a month, made a strong case in favour of permitting the second crop. Some victims had even presented the samples of damaged paddy to the visiting Collector and local MLA Kothapalli Subbarayudu.

Decision

The administration is due to take a decision on stabilisation of the ayacut for rabi at a meeting of the District Irrigation Advisory Board to be convened shortly even as the growers are anxious over the rabi prospects. Mr. Jain told the farmers about the need for their cooperation for a long closure of canals by foregoing rabi to facilitate the modernisation works. Citing the bad condition of a sluice at East Kukkaluru drain near Pedamainvanilanka, which is crying for a facelift for long, the Collector said the farmers in the delta region were incurring crop losses worth crores of rupees in times of floods and rains every year due to the slow-paced modernisation works.

The farmers, however, preferred closure of canals for a short term so that rabi crop and the modernisation works would go on side-by-side.

Cotton traders found duping farmers

HYDERABAD, November 23, 2013 - About 189 cases by the Legal Metrology Department against cotton traders for allegedly indulging in malpractices using faulty weighing machines and causing loss to the innocent farmers.

These cases were registered during special raids conducted by the department at market yards across the State on Wednesday and Thursday. During the inspections, authorities found that the traders were receiving excess cotton from farmers in weigh by showing 50 kg of cotton as 49 kg. They were committing this fraud using beam scales that were not stamped by the department.

Some traders were found to be transporting cotton in trucks in excess than shown in bills, Additional Director-General of Police and Controller S. Gopal Reddy told reporters here on Friday. "We will take legal action if the traders commit the same fraud once again," he warned.

Helpline number

Farmers can lodge complaints on the helpline number 1860-425-3333, email:clm@ap.nic.in and SMS: 94901 65619 if they notice such fraud in the market yards.

Twenty one cases were booked in Nalgonda district, 19 in Mahbubnagar, 23 in Nizamabad, 12 in Medak, nine in Adilabad, 27 in Karimnagar, 25 in Warangal, 31 in Khammam, five in East Godavari, three in West Godavari, two in Guntur, seven in Kurnool and five in Kadapa district.

189 cases booked against them for using faulty weighing machines and bills

Farmers grievances meeting

PUDUKOTTAI, November 23, 2013 - The monthly farmers' grievances day meeting will be held at the collectorate hall here at 10 a.m. on November 27.

Collector C. Manoharan will preside over the meeting.

An official press release urged the farmers and workers to participate in the meeting and get their grievances solved.

Vegetable export from airport partially hit

TIRUCHI, November 23, 2013 - Export of vegetables from the Tiruchi Airport was partially affected on Friday in the absence of a Plant Protection Officer to issue phytosanitary certificate required to export perishables.

According to sources, the Plant Protection Officer (appointed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture) serving at Plant Quarantine at the airport was recently transferred to Coimbatore. However, no alternative arrangement was made following his transfer.

Consequently, about three tonnes of cargo normally exported to Doha via Colombo by one of the Madurai-based exporter was sent to Cochin for export.

"Transferring the officer without making any alternative arrangement can result in loss of foreign exchange. Permanent arrangement should have been made to prevent such a situation," said S.A. Sayeed, a city-based exporter.

Later in the day, Uma Maheswari, an officer of the department in the city office, was authorised to discharge the duties as the Plant Protection Officer at the airport.

Phytosanitary certificate required for exporting perishables

Protect crop diversity to feed all, says expert



CHENNAI, November 23, 2013 -

Marie Haga

While the U.S. is delighted that it has 1,000 varieties of apples, Marie Haga, executive director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, has a different take on it. "A hundred years ago, the U.S. had 7,100 varieties. Now they have only 1,000 varieties. I tell them they have lost 6,100 varieties. You never know, these varieties might have had genetic traits that could have made them resistant to heat or pests or diseases," she said.

Ms. Haga, a former politician from Norway, was in Chennai on Friday to deliver the millennium lecture on 'Feeding a growing world — despite climate change,' at the invitation of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation.

She said agriculture was facing its "most profound challenge ever in 10,000 years" with the global population reaching 7 billion and agricultural production steadily declining. When in another decade the world adds another one billion people, there would be a 15 per cent drop in production of food. "If the temperature rises by one degree, the yield of rice will fall by 10 per cent. So if by the World Bank statistics, the temperature rises by three or four degrees, then the challenge is even greater," Ms. Haga said.

The challenge can be met if governments worked to preserve their crop diversity. The way forward was to not only preserve the diversity but also to store copies of these diverse varieties in a gene pool for the common good.

In an interview to *The Hindu*, she explained how the concept worked. "When Canada developed its heat-resistant wheat variety, the input came from 30 different countries."

It is for this purpose that the Trust is seeking India's support. "We don't own any seeds but we fund the collection of seeds. We have done so for maize and wheat. India is important because it has a tremendous biodiversity," she said.

"Crops like pigeon pea, cucumber, egg plant have their origins in India. The point is where the plant originates, there lies the greatest variety. When you search for a specific trait you may find it in the place the crop originated," she explained.

The only way to protect and increase production was to protect the diversity of crops. "When we lose diversity we lose options for the future. One key measure to increase productivity is to look at better varieties of seeds," Ms. Haga said.

☞ ***"If temperature rises by one degree, rice yield will fall by 10%"***

"We should store copies of diverse varieties in a gene pool"

Water to be released from KRS for summer crops

MANDYA, November 23, 2013 - The Irrigation Consultative Committee (ICC) of the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS), the Cauvery command area, on Friday decided to release water to all major canals and their distributaries from the KRS reservoir for summer crops, from January 2014.

The ICC meeting, chaired by Housing Minister and Mandya district in-charge M.H. Ambareesh, has also decided to take up renovation works of the KRS dependent canals from August 2014.

The decision was taken to enable farmers to take up agricultural activities in the Cauvery command areas, Mr. Ambareesh told presspersons.

Water will be released for 15 days in a month on alternative days (on-and-off basis) from January 2014, he said. "We have also decided to renovate the canals on priority basis," the Minister said.

Around 26,000 million cubic feet (tmcft) of water will be discharged to Bangaradoddi canal, Ramaswamy canal, Raja Parameshwari canal, Chikka Devaraya canal, Virija canal, Visvesvaraya canal, Right Bank Low Level canal (RBLL) and a few distributaries from January 1, officers at Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (CNNL) said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ambareesh took the officials concerned of the CNNL to task for failing to provide Cauvery water to the tail-end areas to take up agricultural activities.

He instructed the officials to take measures to provide water to Malavalli, Maddur, Basaralu, Nagamangala, Koppa and a few other areas.

Eggs, bananas likely under midday meal

BANGALORE, November 23, 2013 - Schoolchildren across the State may soon get more nutritional supplements in their food as the State government is seriously considering a proposal to provide either eggs or bananas to 62.52 lakh children in government and government-aided schools once a week.

The Department of Primary and Secondary Education has submitted a proposal to the government and has sought an additional Rs. 447.10 lakh for the scheme for the remainder of the academic year.

According to the proposal, a copy of which was made available to *The Hindu*, distribution of eggs or bananas could start by December.

Students are now served rice and sambhar from Monday to Thursday, bise bele bath on Friday and upma and sweet pongal on Saturdays. Since dal is not being used on Saturdays

when upma and pongal is served, the department saves Rs. 4,099.64 lakh this academic year. To provide eggs to 62.52 lakh children during the academic year, from December, the department would require Rs. 4,546.74 lakh. But sources in the department said that as the department was saving Rs. 4,099.64 lakh, only Rs. 447.10 lakh would be required for the project this year.

The cost of each egg has been pegged at Rs. 3.25 and children who do not consume eggs would be provided with bananas for the same amount. However, from the next academic year, the department would require Rs. 9,943.75 lakh to provide eggs to 62.52 lakh children for 36 weeks. If the Rs. 4,099 lakh allocated for dal is saved, the department would require an additional Rs. 5,844.11 lakh to run the scheme from the next academic year.

Although the proposal was submitted by the department to the government last month, the government is yet to approve it.

Sources in the department said that the decision to provide eggs was not a demand-driven initiative but was being considered after poultry farmers under the banner of Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders' Association submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister to include eggs under the midday meal scheme.

While the cost of the project has been chalked out, the department is yet to work out other modalities after consulting nutrition experts.

Officials in the department point out that the dosage of egg needs to be planned appropriately as students are also given a glass of milk thrice a week and iron and folic acid tablets once every week.

Minister of State for Primary and Secondary Education Kimmane Ratnakar said that he would have to talk to other departments and also the Chief Minister, who holds the Finance portfolio, on the issue.

Rainwater harvesting pits turn into showpieces

Most of the households have Rainwater Harvesting Pits (RHP) constructed with a purpose to help recharge the ground water. But are the RHP's really serving the purpose?

If consultants dealing with the RHP are to be believed, most of these structures, particularly in many apartment complexes, are mere showpieces constructed just for the purpose of seeking building plan approvals from the authorities.

The RHPs have been constructed without studying the technicalities including building designs, and seldom help in saving or recharging ground water level.

Abhinav Gangumalla, CEO, Hyderabad Goes Green, a company which undertakes RHP projects in the city says, "Most of the builders, including government agencies, are not aware of the technicalities and they simply dig up pits, dump some construction material and finish the task, which is wrong."

He says that for a good RHPs structure, the first step would be to study the building's plumbing plan which helps one to understand where the rainwater is being discharged.

"Once the discharge route of the water is known it is very easy to channelise the water and divert the flow to the RHPs. A good plan helps save money and space too," Mr. Abhinav says.

Instead of four different water outlets for discharge of rainwater from the rooftops, one or two points would be appropriate as it helps diversion of water into RHPs.

“Planning the place and point of RHPs at the time of construction itself will help to construct them in a better way,” the civil engineer feels.

The cost of constructing a good RHP for a building with 1,000 square feet of roof area would generally work out to be between Rs.10,000 and Rs.15,000 and would increase depending on the plinth of the roof area. “It will come down in case of apartment buildings because the roof area is very big,” he says.

Asif Yar Khan

Most of the builders, including government agencies, are not aware of the technicalities and they simply dig up pits, dump some construction material and finish the task

Abhinav Gangumalla,

CEO, Hyderabad Goes Green.

Water Levels

Water level in Periyar dam was 117 feet with an inflow of 468 cusecs and a discharge of 467 cusecs on Friday. The level in Vaigai dam was 43.77 feet with an inflow of 479 cusecs and a discharge of 60 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 2,679 mcft.

Water level at Mettur

The water-level in the Mettur dam stood at 83.77 feet on Friday against its full reservoir level of 120 feet. The inflow was 5,807 cusecs and the discharge nil.

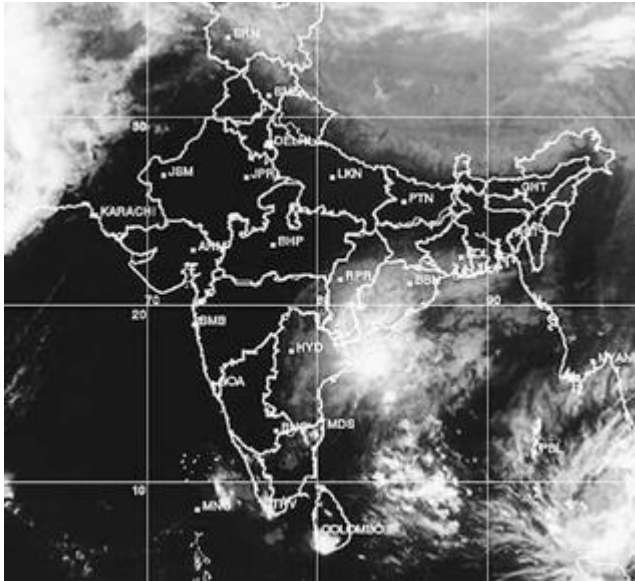
Water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 95.70 feet. The dam had an inflow of 927.85 cusecs and 601 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 69.10 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 181 cusecs and 35 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 26.05 feet, 60.60 feet in Perunchani, 10.59 feet in Chittar I, 10.69 feet in Chittar II, 4 feet in Poigai, 42.73 feet in Mamabazha-thuraiyaru dam.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on November 22.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	33160	51
Arogyavaram	29170	174
Bapatla	32240	505
Calingapatnam	231928	963
Gannavaram	31240	411
Hanamkonda	31180	284
Hyderabad AP	31170	239
Kakinada	272225	649
Khammam	32170	98
Kavali	33240	534
Kurnool	33190	96
Machilipatnam	31231	385
Nandyal	33220	73
Narasapur	28236	617
Nellore	3426tr	437
Nizamabad	33170	107
Ongole	33240	507
Ramagundam	31170	201
Tirupathi AP	33240	312
Tuni	272315	485
Vizag AP	252260	615
Vizag	2321106621	

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	31100	600
Bengaluru AP	29170	125
Bengaluru	30180	133
Bagalkote	30140	—

Belgaum AP	30110	60
Bellary	32140	63
Bijapur	30130	113
Chitradurga	31120	55
Chickmagalur	29150	41
Chintamani	29140	64
Gadag	30160	88
Gulbarga	34170	35
Hassan	29190	86
Honavar	36190	261
Karwar	35190	167
Madikeri	27120	189
Mangalore AP	35200	305
Mysore	30170	153
Mandya	30170	149
Panambur	35210	235
Raichur	32140	102
Shirali	35190	414
KERALA		
Alappuzha	322567	305
Kannur	34250	321
Kochi AP	322317	491
Kottayam	34231	489
Kozhikode	34250	273
Punalur	33230	537
Thiruvanantha		
-puram AP	31240	324
Thiruvanantha		
-puram City	3124tr	389
Vellanikkara	33240	437
TAMIL NADU		
Adiramapattinam	33230	121
Chennai	34250	332
Chennai AP	33240	400
Coimbatore AP	32230	134
Coonoor	20120	420
Cuddalore	332317	274
Dharmapuri	31210	251
Kanyakumari	31240	262
Karaikal	31250	322
Kodaikanal	199 0	229
Madurai AP	3424tr	214
Nagapattinam	31250	268
Palayamkottai	31250	246
Pamban	33240	195
Parangipettai	33250	401
Puducherry	342241	297

Salem	32210	205	The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in
Thanjavur	32260	177	Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall
Tiruchi AP	32230	319	in mm since October 01, 2013.
Tiruttani	33250	315	RAIN LIKELY IN COASTAL A.P.
Tondi	31250	259	CHENNAI: Rainfall occurred at a few places over
Tuticorin	31250	192	Kerala and coastal Andhra Pradesh. Isolated rainfall occurred
Ooty	187 0	245	over Tamil Nadu. Mainly dry weather prevailed
Valparai	271310	304	over Rayalaseema and dry weather prevailed over Telangana,
Vedaranyam	— — —	—	Lakshadweep and Karnataka.
Vellore	32230	99	Forecast (valid until Sunday morning): Rain or
LAKSHADWEEP			thundershower would occur at most places over north
Amini Divi	33240	166	coastal Andhra Pradesh, at many places over south coastal
Minicoy	32250	119	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and at a few places over
Kavarathi	— — —	—	Kerala and Lakshadweep. Isolated rain or thundershower
OTHER STATIONS			may occur over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and
Kolkata (Alipore)	29180	523	Rayalaseema, Mainly dry weather will prevail over Karnataka.
Mumbai	32230	66	Squally/ Gale wind warning: Gale winds speed reaching 100-
New Delhi	29110	73	110 kmph, gusting to 120 kmph would prevail over
Prakasham, Guntur, Krishna, east & west Godavari and Vishakhapatnam districts during next 12 hours. Squally winds speed reaching 55-65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph would prevail along and off remaining parts of Andhra Pradesh coasts during the same period.			
Storm surge warning: Storm surge of about 1 to 1.5 metre height above astronomical tide would inundate the low lying areas of west and east Godavari Krishna, Guntur and adjoining areas of Prakasham districts of Andhra Pradesh at the time of landfall.			

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 84

Wind: normal

Saturday, Nov 23

Max Min

29° | 25°

Sunrise: 06:11

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1011

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Sunday, Nov 24

Max Min

31° | 24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday
Nov 25



29° | 25°

Cloudy

Tuesday
Nov 26



28° | 24°

Overcast

Wednesday
Nov 27



29° | 24°

Overcast

Thursday
Nov 28



29° | 25°

Overcast

Friday
Nov 29



29° | 25°

Overcast

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Farmers protest with their cattle

TRICHY: Farmers conducted a novel protest along with their cattle on Friday at Chinnakulam village in Trichy demanding veterinary department officials to provide death certificates for cattle that died due to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), so that they can avail compensation.

However, officials of the revenue department and animal husbandry department said they have not received any official communication from the government to conduct a survey on the death of milch cows, and added that the number of cows dead due to FMD was only three.

The protest was led by [Puliyur Nagarajan](#), a leader of agriculture wing, [Tamil Nadu Congress Committee](#) (TNCC), near Somarasampettai. "Around 100 milch cows died due to FMD in

Srirangam Taluk. Revenue officials had asked farmers to provide death certificates of cattle to register them for record that is to be sent to the government. When the farmers approach animal husbandry officials to issue death certificate, they ignore it. The carcasses of the cattle were buried, but we are ready to exhume it for postmortem so that they can issue us the death certificates," said Puliur Nagarajan. He also added that government should provide Rs 30,000 for milch cow and Rs 10,000 for goats as compensation.

However, Srirangam tahsildar [Bhavani](#) dismissed the statements of the farmers saying that it was baseless. "We have not been told to conduct survey of the death cows, and we did not ask the farmers to provide death certificate," said Bhavani.

Animal husbandry department maintained that only three milch cows died due to FMD at Theeranpalayam and Vaaladi in Trichy district. "We have not received any official communication from the government to conduct postmortem on carcasses of the death cows. Whenever death occurred, our doctors registered it. So, we have the exact figure of the death toll of milch cows," told Dr I Chinnadurai, joint director, department of animal husbandry, Trichy. He added that some of the farmers did not allow veterinary doctors to vaccinate their cattle citing loss of milk production. So, farmers must cooperate with the doctors to prevent the disease, he said.



Apiculture park to come up in Kodagu

An apiculture park will be set up at Bhagamandala in Kodagu district to revive apiculture in Karnataka, Horticulture Minister Shamanur Shivashankarappa said on Thursday. He told reporters here that the park would come up on six acres at Bhagamandala. The department would distribute 20,000 boxes to Jenu Kurubas, a tribe that has expertise in honey cultivation and extraction.

According to him, Rs. 60 lakh had been earmarked in the current fiscal to promote apiculture. "At present, the honey production is around 800 metric tonnes but it is possible to increase it to 8,000 metric tonnes per annum. Besides awareness, training would be imparted to the local tribe to promote apiculture. There is a lot of scope for promoting apiculture in Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada and other Malnad districts," he said.

Neera Policy

The minister said the department has submitted a proposal to the Finance Department to announce a policy on neera.

"An amendment to the State Excise Act is necessary to allow the tapping and selling of neera in the state. Already, steps have been taken to promote value-added products from the neera like palm syrup, palm jaggery and palm sugar. Now it is up to the Finance Department to table a bill in the State Legislature to pass the Neera Policy," he said.

Proposal Submitted

He said the state government has submitted a proposal to the Union government seeking release of Rs. 100 crore to revive coconut plantations in several districts.

“Thirty per cent of the coconut plants have perished due to pests and failure of monsoon. The department is educating the farmers of rain-fed areas to go for alternative crops,” he said. According to him, the department has given Rs. 12,000 per acre to farmers for loss of coconut plants.

Auction Centres

Shamanur said two flower auction centres set up in Tumkur and Davangere would be inaugurated soon. The Department of Horticulture has provided the infrastructure but it would be managed by the Karnataka Agricultural Marketing Department.

“Floriculture is no longer a profitable venture following competitions from the African countries. In recent years, Kenya and Ethiopia have emerged as leading flower export countries after the European countries. Despite this, many flowers are being exported from Karnataka thanks to the department’s support. Fifty per cent subsidy is being given to entrepreneurs under the National Horticulture Mission to promote floriculture,” he said.

Census

He said the census of horticulture crops’ areas under cultivation and production were in progress in Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bellary, Chitradurga, Davangere, Gulbarga, Hassan, Kolar, Mysore, Shimoga and Tumkur districts. According to him, Rs. 5 crore had been earmarked for the purpose. “Nearly 50 per cent of the work has been completed,” he said.

UoH Professor bags award in Agricultural Microbiology

Appa Rao Podile, senior faculty member in the department of plant sciences at the School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad, has been conferred with Prof. G Rangaswami Award in agricultural microbiology by the Association of Microbiologists of India (AMI).

The award was conferred on Appa Rao in the annual meeting of the association held at Rohtak from November 17-20 for the significant contributions made in the field of agricultural microbiology.

The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of `20,000.

Eating nuts is tied to lower risk of death



In this Dec. 16, 1997 file photo, feed store owner Jerry Foote of Seminole, Texas, holds a handful of peanuts grown in Gaines County. Help yourself to some nuts this holiday season: Regular nut eaters were less likely to die of cancer or heart disease, in fact, were less likely to die of any cause during a 30-year Harvard study. (AP Photo/The Avalanche-Journal, Brad Farris)

Help yourself to some nuts this holiday season: Regular nut eaters were less likely to die of cancer or heart disease — in fact, were less likely to die of any cause — during a 30-year Harvard study.

Nuts have long been called heart-healthy, and the study is the largest ever done on whether eating them affects mortality.

Researchers tracked 119,000 men and women and found that those who ate nuts roughly every day were 20 percent less likely to die during the study period than those who never ate nuts. Eating nuts less often lowered the death risk too, in direct proportion to consumption.

The risk of dying of heart disease dropped 29 percent and the risk of dying of cancer fell 11 percent among those who had nuts seven or more times a week compared with people who never ate them.

The benefits were seen from peanuts as well as from pistachios, almonds, walnuts and other tree nuts. The researchers did not look at how the nuts were prepared — oiled or salted, raw or roasted.

A bonus: Nut eaters stayed slimmer.



Study participants who often ate nuts were healthier — they weighed less, exercised more and were less likely to smoke, among other things. After taking these and other things into account, researchers still saw a strong benefit from nuts. (AP Photo/LM Otero, File)

"There's a general perception that if you eat more nuts you're going to get fat. Our results show the opposite," said Dr. Ying Bao of Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

She led the study, published in Thursday's *New England Journal of Medicine*. The National Institutes of Health and the International Tree Nut Council Nutrition Research & Education Foundation sponsored the study, but the nut group had no role in designing it or reporting the results.

Researchers don't know why nuts may boost health. It could be that their unsaturated fatty acids, minerals and other nutrients lower cholesterol and inflammation and reduce other problems, as earlier studies seemed to show.

Observational studies like this one can't prove cause and effect, only suggest a connection. Research on diets is especially tough, because it can be difficult to single out the effects of any one food.

People who eat more nuts may eat them on salads, for example, and some of the benefit may come from the leafy greens, said Dr. Robert Eckel, a University of Colorado cardiologist and former president of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Ralph Sacco, a University of Miami neurologist who also is a former heart association president, agreed.

"Sometimes when you eat nuts you eat less of something else like potato chips," so the benefit may come from avoiding an unhealthy food, Sacco said.

The Harvard group has long been known for solid science on diets. Its findings build on a major study earlier this year — a rigorous experiment that found a Mediterranean-style diet supplemented with nuts cuts the chance of heart-related problems, especially strokes, in older people at high risk of them.

Many previous studies tie nut consumption to lower risks of heart disease, diabetes, colon cancer and other maladies.

In 2003, the Food and Drug Administration said a fistful of nuts a day as part of a low-fat diet may reduce the risk of heart disease. The heart association recommends four servings of unsalted, unroasted nuts a week and warns against eating too many, since they are dense in calories.



Regular nut

eaters were less likely to die of cancer or heart disease, in fact, were less likely to die of any cause during a 30-year Harvard study. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi, File)

The new research combines two studies that started in the 1980s on 76,464 female nurses and 42,498 male health professionals. They filled out surveys on food and lifestyle habits every two to four years, including how often they ate a serving (1 ounce) of nuts.

Study participants who often ate nuts were healthier — they weighed less, exercised more and were less likely to smoke, among other things. After taking these and other things into account, researchers still saw a strong benefit from nuts.

Compared with people who never ate nuts, those who had them less than once a week reduced their risk of death 7 percent; once a week, 11 percent; two to four times a week, 13 percent; and seven or more times a week, 20 percent.

"I'm very confident" the observations reflect a true benefit, Bao said. "We did so many analyses, very sophisticated ones," to eliminate other possible explanations.

For example, they did separate analyses on smokers and non-smokers, heavy and light exercisers, and people with and without diabetes, and saw a consistent benefit from nuts.

At a heart association conference in Dallas this week, Penny Kris-Etherton, a Pennsylvania State University nutrition scientist, reviewed previous studies on this topic.

"We're seeing benefits of nut consumption on cardiovascular disease as well as body weight and diabetes," said Kris-Etherton, who has consulted for nut makers and also served on many scientific panels on dietary guidelines.

"We don't know exactly what it is" about nuts that boosts health or which ones are best, she said. "I tell people to eat mixed nuts."

Business Standard

Shrimp prices fall 15% on weak demand

Odisha produces Black Tiger shrimp, a major export value item that has a significant demand in Japan, UK and US



[Shrimp](#) prices in Odisha have slumped about 15 per cent, owing to weak global demand.

“Shrimp prices have plunged to Rs 530 a kg due to slackening demand in the international market. This rate is likely to continue, as of now,” said Manoranjan Panda, vice-president, Odisha Shrimp Farmers Association.

Odisha produces [Black Tiger](#) shrimp, a major export value item that records significant demand from countries such as Japan, the UK and the US. “However, demand for Indian shrimp has come down because of high domestic prices and good harvests in other countries,” said Gora Chand Mohanty, president, Sea Food Exporter Associations of India (Odisha region).

About a month ago, the prices had hit a high of Rs 630 a kg, a rise of about 200 per cent rise compared to last year, owing to short supply in the aftermath of cyclonic storm Phailin and the subsequent floods in coastal districts.

However, most farmers could not reap any gains from the high prices, as about 2,000 hectares of shrimp culture ponds, with a combined production capacity of 3,000 tonne (valued at about Rs 300 crore), were damaged because of the cyclone and the floods.

Shrimp farmers estimate the total loss due to the devastation wreaked by Phailin in Ganjam, Puri and [Jagatsinghpur](#) districts and the floods in [Balasore](#) district at Rs 350 crore. Balasore accounts for about 80 per cent of the shrimp farming in the state.

Onion exports down 86% to 22,000 tonnes in Oct



Onion exports stood at 1,54,957 tonnes in October 2012

India's [onion](#) exports in October fell sharply by 86% to 22,000 tonnes compared with the same month last year as government raised minimum export price ([MEP](#)) to control rising domestic prices.

However, onions exports have increased by nearly 3,000 tonnes compared to the previous month, according to data compiled by National Horticultural Research Foundation ([NHRDF](#)).

Onion exports stood at 1,54,957 tonnes in October 2012, while the shipments were at 19,218 tonnes in September this year.

The government had imposed MEP on onion at \$650 per tonne on August 14 to curb the rise in prices of onions. Following this, the MEP have been further raised two times, first to \$900 per tonne and then to \$1,150 per tonne as onion prices remain surging and touched Rs 100 per kg in some parts of the country.

Now, prices have moderated to Rs 50-60 per kg with arrival of new crop of onions from Rajasthan and Karnataka has started arriving in huge quantities in consuming states.

During April-October period in the current year onion exports 7,38,246 tonnes down from last year's level of 11,56,424 tonnes.

Shipments of onions started showing down fall trend from the month of July as prices of bulb started going up in the domestic markets.

The total production of Onion in 2012 stood at 16.30 million tonnes.

Sugar up 0.3% on pick up in demand

Sweetener for delivery in December traded higher by 0.25%

[Sugar](#) prices gained 0.39% to Rs 2,835 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators enlarged positions after pick up in demand in the spot market in view of marriage season.



At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), sugar for delivery in January gained Rs 11, or 0.39%, to Rs 2,835 per quintal with an open interest of 20,530 lots.

Likewise, the sweetener for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 7, or 0.25%, to Rs 2,830 per quintal in 11,110 lots.

Market analysts said speculators enlarged positions after pick up in demand in the spot market in view of marriage season which led to rise in sugar prices at futures trade.

Chana down 0.3% on higher supply

Commodity for delivery in December shed 0.29%



[Chana](#) prices fell by 0.31% to Rs 3,189 per quintal in futures trade today following sufficient supplies at spot market against subdued demand.

Expectations of higher output this season on favourable weather conditions also influenced chana prices.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), chana for delivery in January slid by Rs 10, or 0.31%, to Rs 3,189 per quintal with an open interest of 48,260 lots.

Likewise, the commodity for delivery in December shed Rs 9, or 0.29%, to Rs 3,093 per quintal in 85,380 lots.

Analysts said sufficient supplies in the markets from producing regions against subdued demand mainly put pressure on chana prices at futures trade.

Potato down 1.1% on supply pressure

Potato for delivery in March lost 0.89%



[Potato](#) futures extended losses for the third day by losing 1.15% to Rs 862.50 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators offloaded positions, driven by increased supplies from producing regions.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in far-month April fell further by Rs 10, or 1.15%, to Rs 862.50 per quintal in business turnover of 5 lots.

Potato for delivery in March lost Rs 8, or 0.89%, to Rs 887.50 per quintal in 28 lots.

Analysts said offloading of positions by speculators, driven by increased supplies from growing regions, mainly kept pressure on potato prices at futures trade.

Cardamom up 0.1% on spot demand

Spice for delivery in January edged up by 0.17%



[Cardamom](#) rose by 0.19% to Rs 745.40 per kg in futures trade today as speculators indulged in creating fresh positions after a rise in demand in the spot market.

Tight stocks position in the physical market following restricted arrivals from producing regions too supported the uptrend.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in December rose by Rs 1.40, or 0.19%, to Rs 745.40 per kg in business turnover of 105 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in January edged up by Rs 1.30, or 0.17%, to Rs 775.50 per kg in 21 lots.

Analysts said speculators indulged in creating fresh positions on the back of a rise in demand in the spot market against limited arrivals from producing region which mainly led to rise in cardamom prices at futures trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

Wheat, oilseeds planting picks up as mercury dips in the North



Gaining Momentum
(acreage in lakh hectares)

Crop	This Year	Last Year
Rice	0.73	0.64
Wheat	127.47	101.64
Pulses	85.95	85.10
Coarse Cereals	36.20	41.70
Oilseeds	62.42	61.53
Sugarcane	1.47	3.70
Total Acreage	314.24	294.31

* as on Nov 22

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

New Delhi, Nov. 22: As temperatures drop across the northern plains, wheat planting has picked up with higher sowing reported from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. So far, wheat has been planted on a total of 127.47 lakh hectares (lh), inching closer towards the halfway mark of the normal area of 280 lakh tonnes. In the corresponding last year, wheat acreage stood at 101.64 lh.

Pulses coverage

The pulses acreage is also marginally higher this year at 85.95 lh driven by higher planting of gram (chana). The acreage under gram is currently 62.68 lh (58.85 lh).

Higher pulses acreage has been reported in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

oilseeds gain

The acreage under oilseeds has also seen a rise with higher planting of rapeseed/mustard. The area under mustard has been pegged at 54.41 lh against last year's 52.38 lh, with the main producing State – Rajasthan – reporting higher coverage.

The area under groundnut is marginally lower than last year at 2.31 lh (2.42 lh), while safflower has also seen a decline at 2.55 lh (3.22 lh).

Rice planting for the current rabi has grown marginally compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

However, the acreage under coarse cereals and sugarcane is seen lagging over last year.

cereals

Total coarse cereal acreage is lower at 36.20 lh (41.70 lh) mainly due to decline in planting of jowar.

The area under jowar is reported at 29.24 lh against last year's 34.21 lh. Also the rabi maize and barley planting is trailing compared with last year.

The area under maize area is estimated at 3.13 lh (3.68 lh), whereas barley is estimated at 3.49 lh against last year's 3.34 lh.

The area under sugarcane has almost halved to 1.47 lh (3.70 lh).

cane acreage dips

Sugarcane farmers across the country are currently fighting for a better price as millers, who are facing losses, are reluctant to pay a higher cane price.

Higher arrivals



Prices slide: A farmer from Bhilhani Sadak village waits to sell soyabean at the Ashta foodgrain market, about 80 km from Bhopal, in Madhya Pradesh. Soyabean prices dropped on Friday as arrivals increased, dealers said. Total arrivals were estimated at 5.9 lakh bags (of 100 kg each), up from 5.25 lakh bags on Thursday. In

Indore, the oilseed was quoted at Rs 3,500-3,750 a quintal, down Rs 200. — Kamal Narang

Tea prices mixed at Kolkata sale

Kolkata, Nov. 22: Tea prices were mixed at the Kolkata tea auction this week (Sale Number 47).

While the average CTC price was marginally up at Rs 145.11 a kg compared with last week's Rs 144.24 , orthodox average price was lower at Rs 177.34 (Rs 182.06), according to J Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd, the auctioneers. An estimated 80.35 per cent (80.80 per cent) of CTC and 82 per cent (79.08 per cent) of orthodox volumes offered were sold.

This week, the total offerings (packages) at three North Indian auction centres at Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri were 4,80,795 compared with 4,62,826 in the corresponding sale of last year.

Assam CTC broken, maintaining quality, were firm around last week's level with good leaf categories dearer at times. Dooars ruled firm to dearer.

Tata Global was less active and operated mainly for the mediums. Hindustan Unilever operated on the better sorts. Western India supported liquoring teas.

Orthodox tippy teas sold well in line with quality. CIS and West Asia shippers operated actively. There was some Continental interest on the tippy teas.

Darjeeling offerings met with improved demand. Whole leaf varieties maintaining quality were readily absorbed by traditional exporters with good support from Hindustan Unilever. Broken sold at irregular rates. Fannings maintained levels owing to export interest.

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Copra prices may rise on short supply

Erode, Nov. 22: Coconut oil prices improved on the back of limited copra stocks with farmers.

"The price of coconut oil touched Rs 1,620 for 15 kg loose pack on Friday. But buyers are hesitating as prices of palm oil and palm kernel are selling at Rs 70/kg," said R.M.

Palanisamy, a coconut oil dealer.

He said that in the international market many people prefer palm kernel. Coconut oil price may go up further affecting sales.

He said that in the private market, copra is available at Rs 80/kg, whereas it is sold at Rs 75 in the Regulated Market Committee.

At the Avalpoondurai Regulated Market Committee, the first grade copra was sold at Rs 7,025-7,655 a quintal and the second grade at Rs 5,600-7,265. All the 75 tonnes of copra that arrived got sold.

Copra farmers said that some are holding bare minimum copra stock and are getting a higher price.

They also said that copra prices will go up further next week.

Spot rubber skids on panic selling

Kottayam, Nov.22: The spot rubber market remained under pressure on Friday. “We experienced an almost panic situation in the local trading houses lacking quantity buyers even at lower levels,” traders said. There had been selling from dealers and growers on rumours that RSS 4 would fall below Rs 150 in the short run. According to sources, growers are not holding stocks due to technical reasons, as intermittent rains might affect the quality of the produce. Sheet rubber declined to Rs 154 (Rs 155) a kg, as quoted by traders. The grade dropped to Rs 155 (Rs 156) and Rs 152 (Rs 153) respectively, according to the Rubber Board and dealers. December futures weakened to Rs 154.93 (Rs 155.96), January to Rs 157 (Rs 157.80), February to Rs 159.33 (Rs 159.91) and March to Rs 160.60 (Rs 161) while the April futures inched up to 162.50 (Rs 162.39) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) improved to Rs 156.49 (Rs 155.73) at Bangkok. November futures closed at ¥250.1 (Rs 155.49) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. **Spot rubber rates Rs/kg:** RSS-4: 154 (155); RSS-5: 145 (146); Ungraded: 142 (143); ISNR 20: 147.50 (148); and Latex 60%: 105 (106).

Tea prices decline at Kochi sale

Kochi, Nov. 22: Prices at the Kochi Tea auction continued to witness a declining trend despite low arrivals. In sale no 47, the quantity on offer in Dust CTC grades was 11,56,000 kg. With demand being fair, the market opened Rs 3-5 lower. However, the decline in price was Rs 5-10 . The market also witnessed heavy withdrawals and export enquiry was confined to low-priced teas. The quantity on offer in orthodox grades was 6,500 kg . The small quantity of orthodox dust on offer was absorbed by exporters. In the best CTC dusts, PD varieties quoted Rs 95-112, RD grades fetched Rs 100-125, SRD ruled at Rs 107-141 and SFD stood at Rs 110-148. The leaf sale also witnessed a downward trend and the quantity on offer in orthodox grades was 1,54,500 kg. The market for good liquoring Nilgiri brokens, whole leaf barely ruled steady. However, medium, clean, black, well-made tippy grades and bolder brokens were fully firm to dearer. The quantity on offer in CTC leaf grades was 69,500 kg and the market for good liquoring teas was fully firm and sometimes dearer.

Fresh cyclone brewing as weakened Helen crosses coast

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 22: The India Met Department downgraded severe intensity of cyclonic storm Helen before it crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast on Friday afternoon. The landfall took place close to south of Machillipatnam with reduced wind speeds of 80-90 km/hr (against 110 km/hr forecast earlier).

SUCCESSOR BREWING

The storm lay centred on coastal Andhra Pradesh south-west of Machillipatnam on Thursday evening, the Met Department said.

It would move west-southwestwards and will have weakened to a rudimentary low-pressure area by Saturday morning.

Meanwhile, a successor storm seems to have been initiated with a causative 'low' taking shape off Sumatra (Indonesia) and adjoining South Andaman Sea on Friday.

As in the case of severe cyclone Helen, this 'low' too has been put under watch straight away for rapid intensification as depression.

The Met Department indicated that it will go on to intensify beyond this level but stopped short of generating a cyclone alert just yet.

SEVERE CYCLONE

An Australian weather model has forecast that it would become a cyclone with in the northeast quadrant likely to clock speeds of 100 km/hr as early as Monday. By then, it will have reached north of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands only.

It will move at a measured pace to north-west and early forecasts indicate it could intensify into a very severe cyclone, if not a super cyclone, over the Bay waters.

But it will start weakening over waters close to Odisha coast, and canter home as a much weakened system, according to early projections.

A storm tracker of the Climate Prediction Centre of the US National Weather Services also seemed to agree with the outlook for intensification.

RAIN FORECAST

Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Centre of US Navy has already put the system under watch for rapid strengthening.

But the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts does not see intensification to the levels suggested above and takes the system towards the Tamil Nadu coast.

Meanwhile, remnant of cyclone Helen will bring rain to most places over north coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining Guntur, Krishna, West Godavari districts of south coastal Andhra Pradesh until Saturday. Heavy to very heavy rainfall has been warned of at a few places and isolated extremely heavy rainfall at others.

Heavy rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls has been forecast over Telangana, too. Moderate rainfall is likely at many places over south Odisha.

Squally winds speed reaching 50-60 km/hr gusting to 70 km/hr will prevail along and off Andhra Pradesh coasts until Saturday morning.

Sea condition will be very rough to very rough along and off Andhra Pradesh coasts.

Fishermen are advised not to venture into sea.

Cotton may wilt further on higher arrivals



Rajkot, Nov. 22: Cotton prices dropped marginally as export demand slowed on the back of weak global sentiments. Moreover, domestic buying was limited as buyers are expecting prices to drop further in the coming days. .

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton decreased by Rs 100-200 to Rs 40,200-40,300 for a candy of 356 kg. *Kapas* or raw cotton dropped by Rs 5 to Rs 950-987 for a *maund* of 20 kg. *Kapas* for gin delivery was traded at Rs 980-990.

About 60,000 bales (170 kg each) of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 1.60 lakh bales across the country.

Cottonseed prices fell by Rs 5-7 to Rs 350-352 *amaund* in Rajkot.

Traders said that sentiments in the cotton market are weak as the buying activity is dull.

As the market overseas is treading a negative path, export demand has come down.

According to market sources, cotton prices may slip further as they could come under more pressure on increasing arrivals.

Dow Jones reports: Cotton futures retreated on Friday morning, under pressure as traders worried about a possible pullback in demand when China begins to release its stocks.

“Traders have spent much of this month dwelling on the upcoming Chinese auction of state reserves and India’s predicted record crop, and what both could mean for limited import potential in the former and pressure on world prices from the latter,” said Sharon Johnson, senior cotton specialist at KCG Futures in Atlanta.

Cotton for March delivery on the ICE Futures US exchange was recently 1.5 per cent lower at 77.20 cents a pound.

Spot turmeric rules weak despite higher sales



Erode, Nov. 22: Spot turmeric prices in Erode ruled weak despite higher sales as rates in the futures market tumbled.

“On Friday, the market was unchanged though sales were high. The declining trend in the futures market pegged spot prices. Though traders and exporters have received reasonable demand from North India, they procured only quality turmeric,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar,

President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that for the past few days farmers have been bringing quality turmeric, resulting in prices rising. The current trend may prevail for some more days as traders hold a few orders from other States.

On Friday, of 5,000 bags that arrived, 70 per cent was sold. For want of quality, the hybrid turmeric decreased by Rs 300 a quintal. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,199-6,449 and the root variety Rs 4,085-5,415 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 5,814-7,079; the root variety Rs 4,900-5,691. Of the 1,687 bags that arrived, only 540 were sold. At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,484-6,389; the the root variety at Rs 4,667-5,587. Of the 1,165 bags on offer, 996 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 5,437-6,360 and the root variety Rs 4,637-5,587. All the 580 bags were sold. At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,172-6,442; the root variety Rs 4,569-5,442. All the 351 bags found takers.

Flour demand keeps dara wheat firm



Karnal, Nov. 22: After witnessing an uptrend earlier this week, dara wheat prices remained unchanged despite good domestic buying on Friday.

Following demand for flour, interest in dara wheat remained firm, said Ram Kumar, a wheat trader.

The market has been getting good support from strong consumer demand and prices have been ruling firm since Tuesday. They may

continue to rule around current levels over the next couple of days, said Kumar.

Dara wheat prices have improved by Rs 40 a quintal over the last one week.

In the physical market, dara wheat sold at Rs 1,620-25 a quintal. Around 850 bags of wheat arrived and stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,620 while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,625.

A positive trend was witnessed on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange on Friday.

Wheat for December delivery improved by Rs 9 and traded at 1,662 with an open interest of 1,580 lots. December contracts have some support at Rs 1,649 while resistance at Rs 1,665 . January contracts went up by Rs 8 and traded at Rs 1,682 . In the spot market, wheat was at Rs 1,580 .

According to the market experts, the market may continue to witness a range-bound to steady movement in the coming days.

Flour Prices

Following good domestic demand, flour continued to rule firm and quoted at Rs 1,850 . Similarly, chokar ruled firm at Rs 1,270-90 a quintal.

Pepper futures rise on global supply crunch



Kochi, Nov. 22: The uptrend in pepper futures continued on world-wide supply crunch, while spot prices ruled firm on limited activities.

Even as the buying activities have slowed due to the wedding season and election in Delhi and some norther States, the *pappad* industry is reportedly covering good quantity from all available sources, market sources told *Business Line*.

Meanwhile, semi-processed 550 GL pepper was sold by processors at Rs 510-512-515 a kg, they said.

On the spot, 18 tonnes of farm-grade pepper arrived and 20 tonnes were traded at Rs 500-505 a kg.

On the NMCE, December and January contracts increased by Rs 189 and Rs 246 respectively to Rs 52,800 and Rs 52,846 a

quintal.

The turnover surged by 22 tonnes to 29 tonnes while net open position moved up by three tonnes to seven tonnes.

On the IPSTA, all the active contracts went up by Rs 121 and Rs 69 respectively to Rs 52,655 and Rs 52,697 a quintal.

Turnover decreased to 40 tonnes, while the net open position remained unchanged at four tonnes.

Spot prices were steady at the previous level of Rs 50,000 (ungarbled) and Rs 52,000 (garbled) a quintal on limited activities.

Prices for export declined following weakening of the rupee against the dollar to \$8,750 (c&f) for Europe and \$9,050 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

All other origins except Brazil were reportedly ruling firm but much below the Indian parity.

Masur growers may shift to other crops on high soil moisture



Indore, Nov. 22: Pulses ruled steady despite slack demand and buying support in Indore *mandis* on Friday. Masoor (bold) quoted at Rs 4,250-4,300 a quintal, while masoor (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at Rs 3,900-4,100. With decline in domestic stock and imports turning costlier on account of recent rise in the dollar against the

rupee, prospects for masoor appear to be bullish.

According to traders, the crop prospect for masoor is not encouraging as high moisture content in the soil due to extended monsoon rains, has prompted farmers to switch over to other crops.

As a result of this, masoor output this year is expected to be around 3.5-4 lakh tonnes – marginally higher than last year's 3.5 lakh tonnes.

Masoor dal (average) quoted at Rs 5,100-5,200, masoor dal (medium) ruled at Rs 5,300-5,400, while masoor (bold) ruled at Rs 5,400-5,500 a quintal.

Moong and its dal have also been witnessing sluggish trend in Indore *mandis* for the past few days with arrivals outstripping demand.

On Friday, moong (best) ruled at Rs 5,500-6,000, while moong (medium) was quoted at Rs 5,200-5,600.

Moong dal (medium) was being quoted at Rs 6,700-7,000, moong dal (bold) at Rs 7,100-7,300, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,500-7,600 a quintal.

Similarly urad and its dal also ruled stable on slack demand with urad (bold) at Rs 4,400-4,500, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,800-4,000.

Urad dal (medium) was at Rs 5,300-5,400, urad dal (bold) at Rs 5,500-5,600, while urad dal mongar ruled at Rs 5,800-6,200 a quintal respectively.
