

## Sugarcane farmers go on the rampage in Maharashtra

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PUNE, November 28, 2013 - Sugarcane farmers in west Maharashtra on Wednesday vandalised buses and staged rasta roko across the State in protest against the low price given by the government.

Meanwhile, Raju Shetty, leader of the Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatna, the protesting organisation, has called a two-day Statewide bandh, demanding better prices.

Giving an ultimatum to the government, Mr. Shetty threatened that protests would intensify if the demands were not met. "Factory owners should look for a practical solution. There is talk of the situation being politicised, but if farmers get their due, anybody can take credit," he said, addressing a farmers' rally in Karad.

Even as Mr. Shetty requested farmers to maintain peace, more than 50 government and private buses were vandalised, and trucks burnt, across the State. The Mumbai-Bangalore highway (NH4) was blocked by protesting farmers.

The farmers have demanded Rs. 3000 per quintal of sugarcane. Last year, the prices ranged from Rs. 2700 in west Maharashtra to Rs. 2300 in the Marathwada region.

## Farmers' hub to come up in Dindigul

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DINDIGUL, November 28, 2013 - *All facilities under one roof*

Farmers need not run from corner to corner to obtain information and to meet agriculture officials as the Department of Agriculture has established a farmers' hub at an estimated cost of Rs.1.49 crore on Natham Road near the town.

The hub will house an ultra-modern soil testing lab, seed testing and inspection facility. Offices of the Assistant Directors for Horticulture and Agriculture, Seed Certification and Seed Inspector offices will also function in this hub.

Besides, the hub has a spacious meeting hall with all facilities, a waiting room for farmers, Automated Teller Machine facility and internet facility. Besides, ramp facility too has been provided to enable differently abled persons to reach the offices without hassles.

Four massive godowns have been constructed in the hub to stock fertilizers, seeds and other agriculture inputs.

Talking to press persons after inspecting the new building on Wednesday, Collector N. Venkatachalam said that the hub will act as a single window system to help farmers get all facilities at one place. Such measure will save considerable time, energy and money of farmers. The hub was ready for inauguration.

Similarly, another building meant for Backward Classes girls' hostel constructed at a cost of Rs.66.78 lakh was also ready for inauguration.

The building has five halls to accommodate 50 students, a separate room for the warden, a modern kitchen, dining hall, stock room and toilet facilities.

Another building for Kallar schoolgirls hostel was also constructed at a cost of Rs.1.45 crore. It will also be inaugurated shortly, he added.

## Karur farmers demand immediate release of water

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### WITHERING CROPS

- **More than 40,000 acres of land in Karur, Tirupur and Coimbatore irrigated by Amaravathy Reservoir**
- **Karur district had been discriminated against by the officials managing the irrigation system**
- **Farmers' association say effective storage of water in the dam was only up to the height of 24 feet**
- **Paddy, sugarcane, and turmeric are raised mainly in Karur district**

*Crops on 40,000 acres of land withering for past two months for want of water*

Farmers belonging to the Pallapalayam Raja Vaikkal Aycutdars' Association have petitioned the Karur district administration to release water into the Amaravathy to save the standing crops that have started withering in many places.

They alleged that the officials had been discriminating against the district.

More than 40,000 acres of land in Karur, Tirupur, and Coimbatore were irrigated by the Amaravathy Reservoir. They include the old aycut, extended aycut, and lift irrigation scheme areas.

Karur that formed the tail end of the aycut had always been getting a raw deal at the hands of officials upstream. The districts had always used the available water to suit their needs and allowed only drain water to Karur district farmers who have raised paddy, turmeric and sugar cane besides coconut groves that sustain on the Amaravathy water.

With pretty good rains, the Amaravathy reservoir, whose maximum height was 90 feet, touched 80 feet, and water was released for irrigation in downstream areas in mid-August. However, there had been no rain as a result of which the reservoir had been closed the next month itself and farmers felt let down by nature.

Under these circumstances, members of the Pallapalayam Raja Vaikkal Aycutdars' Association have petitioned the district administration for immediate release of water.

Led by the president Palanisamy and secretary Ramasamy, the members presented a memorandum to District Collector S. Jayandhi on Tuesday stating that their standing crops had been withering for the past two months for want of water in river.

Pointing out that the storage level was around 39 feet and taking into account 15 feet as dead storage, there was water only up to a height of 24 feet. Karur farmers must be helped immediately.

Claiming that Karur ayicut had consistently been discriminated against by the officials manning the Amaravathy system, the association demanded the State government's immediate intervention in the issue as the Amaravathy Main Channel and other districts had been treated favourably.

## Thanjavur farmers stick to demand for compensation

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*They say many milch animals lost to foot-and-mouth disease*

*VOCIFEROUS DEMAND: Farmers squatting in front of the Collector demanding compensation for the death of milch animals to foot-and-mouth disease in Collectorate on Wednesday. — PHOTO: B. VELANKANNI RAJ*

THANJAVUR, November 28, 2013 - Expressing concern over increasing cases of foot-and-mouth disease among head of cattle in Thanjavur district, farmers who attended the monthly grievances day meeting at the collectorate here on Wednesday, appealed to the District Collector to pay compensation for the animals lost to disease by farmers.

They said that many head of cattle died in Kumbakonam, Thiruvudaimaruthur, Orathanadu, and Thiruppanandal panchayat unions. They demanded payment of Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 to milch animals and Rs. 4,000 for goats.

They said that Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd. Resorted to unscheduled load shedding for many hours in a day for the past one month. The rain was inadequate in the delta districts.

Cauvery water released from Mettur had not reached many tail end areas.

In such a situation, the State government, instead of blaming the Union Government should take steps to provide continuous power supply for agriculture pumpsets, the farmers said. A section of farmers staged a walk out in support of the above two demands.

Veterinary Department officials explained the precautionary measures to be taken up by farmers to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.

N. Subbaiyan, Thanjavur District Collector, who presided over the meeting, said that samba transplantation had been completed so far on 1,05,530 hectares of land against the target of 1,18,140 hectares of land.

Kuruvai harvest had been completed on 28,294 hectares.

Thaladi transplantation had been completed on 25,020 hectares.

There was a stock of 10,312 tonnes of urea, 2,99 tonnes of di-ammonium phosphate, 5,002 tonnes of potash and 4,383 tonnes of complex fertilizers with Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit Societies in the district and with private companies. They were being distributed for the samba season.

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☒ ***Inadequate rain, power cuts aggravating crisis***

☒ ***They demand sustained power supply to IP sets***

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## Farmers educated on mite management

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TUTICORIN, November 28, 2013 - To sensitise farmers to mite management, hands-on training funded by the National Agricultural Development Programme was conducted at the Agricultural College and Research Institute at Killikulam here on Tuesday.

It was inaugurated by K. Ramaraj, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

In his presidential address, V.Subramanian, Dean (in-charge) of the institute research explained the market potential of horticultural crops. The programme content was outlined by C. Chinnaiah, Programme Coordinator, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai. D. Nagarajan, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Tuticorin, offered felicitations.

Earlier, G. Ravi, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology, of the institute welcomed the gathering.

Twenty-five vegetable farmers from various parts of the district participated in the programme.

T. Abdul Razak, Professor of Entomology, proposed a vote of thanks.

## Give crop loans to farmers in time, bankers told

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VIRUDHUNAGAR, November 28, 2013 - The bankers should give crop loans to farmers in time, said the Collector, T.N. Hariharan, here on Wednesday.

Speaking at a district consultative committee meeting with bankers, he said that the banks should expedite disbursement of loans with subsidies not only to farmers but to women self-help groups, weavers, students and District Industries Centre (DIC) or Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) approved entrepreneurs and reach the target by examining the pending applications. The bankers should also ensure that the crops were insured against natural calamity.

Besides, the Election Commission of India had decided to rope in bankers for the purpose of posting them as election observers during the next parliamentary elections. So, the bank authorities should also send a list of interested persons for election work to the election tahsildar.

Indian Overseas Bank's Chief Regional Manager Thirugnanasambandam, Assistant General Manager of the National Bank for Agriculture Rural Development J. Subramanian, Joint Director of Agriculture Subbaiah, IOB's Manager Sulaiman, DIC manager Santhakumar were present.

## Farmers urged to lay emphasis on agri-tourism

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MADIKERI, November 28, 2013 - Former head of the Cardamom Research Centre at Appangala, near Madikeri, and former director of the Agriculture Research Council, V. S. Korikanthimath, on Wednesday, called upon the farmers to promote agriculture related tourism in the State, Kodagu in particular.

He was speaking after inaugurating the three-day, seventh edition of the 'Symposium on Spices, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops', under the head 'Post Harvest Processing of Spices and Fruit Crops', in Madikeri. Mr. Korikanthimath lauded the contribution of the farmers from Kodagu who had produced the best of coffee and spices in the district. The rich coffee, cardamom, pepper plantations could also add to the tourism prospects in the district where tourists could visit them for a first hand experience, he said.

The Indian Society for Spices (ISS) functioning at the Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Kozhikode, is organizing the event. The symposium has brought under one roof farmers from Kodagu, scientists, research organizations, development agencies, academicians and industry experts. The seminar is being jointly organized by ICAR, IISR, Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR), Bangalore and the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD), Kozhikode.

M. Anandaraj, IISR Director and the President of ISS, M. M. Mustafa, Director, National Research Centre of Banana, Tiruchirapalli, former chief of the Cardamom Research Centre at Appangala, M.N. Venugopal, and others were present.

## Cane growers blame State for farmer's suicide in Belgaum

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*Farmers in Mysore observe a two-minute silence condoling the death of a sugarcane farmer in Belgaum on Wednesday. — PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM*

MYSORE, November 28, 2013 - Farmers under the banner of State Sugarcane Growers' Association here blocked the busy Mysore–Nanjangud Road here for sometime on Wednesday, against the State

Government over the death of a sugarcane grower in Belgaum.

Blaming the government for the farmer's suicide, the farmers led by association president Kurubur Shanthkumar said the farmer would not have ended his life if the government had acted on the sugarcane issue immediately.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shanthkumar said sugarcane farmers would intensify their protests across the State against the farmer's death. Farmers will block roads even in rural areas from Thursday, he said.

He demanded a compensation of Rs. 10 lakh from the government and Rs. 25 lakh from the sugar factory, which allegedly delayed payment to the deceased farmer for the sugarcane he supplied to the factory. They later observed a two-minute silence to mourn the death of the farmer.

## Karshaka Congress demands steps to dispel farmers' fears

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KOCHI, November 28, 2013 - STEPS DEMANDED TO DISPEL FARMERS' FEARS

The State and Central governments should take steps to dispel the apprehensions of farmers following the publication of the Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan committee reports, the office bearers of the Kerala Pradesh Karshaka Congress (I) have said.

Reports that environmental organisations had received over Rs. 400 crore from foreign agencies should be investigated, said a joint statement issued by Lal Varghese Kalpakavadi and K.P. Elias, the president and the general secretary of the organisation.

The views of farmers, local self-governments or State governments in the Ghats region were not sought by the two committees while preparing the reports, they said.

## Coconut farmers plan diabetic-friendly products

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KOCHI, November 28, 2013 - Coconut farmer societies, awaiting amendments to the Kerala Abkari Act for neera production, plan to venture in a big way into making palm sugar, jaggery and sugar concentrate, which opens up the prospects of these products being used in large quantities in bakery and confectionary items.

Diabetic-friendly ice-creams and chocolates; jalebi and ladoo; cakes and cookies are not too distant on the food horizon if abkari rules are amended, said T.K. Jose, Chairman of the Coconut Development Board on Wednesday. He said studies had proved that sugar from coconut inflorescence was diabetic-friendly.

Neera production has been held up because the Abkari Act, which controls the production and sale of alcohol-containing products and produce including toddy, has not been amended to allow tapping of the unfermented sap from coconut flowers.

The government issued an order on September 23 that the Abkari Act would be amended but the actual order appears still to be caught up in bureaucratic tangles.

Earlier, a committee appointed by the government to study the problems facing the toddy business and the prospects of neera tapping, had recommended opening up the business of neera in the State. Mr. Jose said that neera has largely been touted as a soft drink. But coconut producer companies would be encouraged to produce palm sugar and jaggery as well as sugar concentrate for use in confectionary and sweets production.

Eleven of these producer companies, under the aegis of the Coconut Development Board, have obtained registration and are awaiting amendments to the Abkari Act to begin neera production.

The board has tested technology for preservation of neera without fermenting for two months in room temperature and for a longer period under refrigeration. The board has completed and tested the technology for neera preservation as well as for value-added products from neera in collaboration with a private institution in Kochi. The board is also in the midst of perfecting its own technology at its lab at Vazhakkulam, near here. Chairman of Tejaswini Coconut Farmers' Producer Company Sunny George said on Wednesday that the company was ready to produce neera when the licences for tapping are issued by the government. The company in Kannur is among the first to get the registration for tapping and packaging neera under an initiative by the board.

Similar units have also been registered in Kozhikode, which has two of them; Malappuram, Palakkad, Thrissur, Alappuzha and Kollam, said information posted on the website of the Coconut Development Board.

## Farmers' centre project

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THRISSUR, November 28, 2013 - Minister for Co-operation C.N. Balakrishnan will inaugurate the Farmers' Service Centre Project at Vennur Service Co-operative Bank, Meladur, on Friday. In all, 28 such centres will be opened under the project in the initial stage.

## No let-up in miseries for this tenant farmer

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NARSAPUR (WEST GODAVARI DT., November 28, 2013 - *Cyclone after cyclone makes this farmer stare at very bleak prospects of his future*

Nature's fury has literally dashed the hopes of Pilli Ramanjaneyulu, a tenant farmer from Lakshmaneswaram village, under this mandal, in West Godavari district.

He raised paddy on two acres of leased land with an oral agreement of giving 28 bags of produce to the landlord as annual lease. He invested up to Rs 20,000 towards cultivation cost, but it turned out to be a season of calamities for the landless farmer.

**Fear at every stage**

It rained heavily when the crop was in flowering stage and subsequently submerged under a sheet of water for several days. Later, cyclone Phailin struck when his field was in the phase of panicle initiation. Then it was the turn of cyclone Helen, which brought in furious gales and heavy rains, to flatten the crop in the run-up to the harvest. The crop, which remained under a sheet of rainwater for several days, rotted with the prospects of discolouration of grain and higher levels of moisture in the produce.

“I am totally devastated after two worst-ever cyclones. Now, I am in for another cyclone,” said a worried Ramanjaneyulu. He is afraid of a sharp decline in the yield as a result of the cyclones. “I reap at least 25 bags per acre in normal days. Now, it is likely to come down to as low as 10 bags, that too with poor quality,” he lamented.

#### **Lose-lose situation**

The drop in the yield is mainly due to failure of grain formation and grain-shedding. Besides, discolouration and germination of the grain with higher moisture levels will result in poor demand and poor price for the produce. “I am at the mercy of my land owner with regard to fulfilment of my lease commitments and faced with multiplication of the loan of Rs 40,000 I raised from private moneylenders with Rs 3 interest to meet the cultivation expenses,” he said.

Kavuru Peddi Raju, joint secretary of the Narsapur divisional committee of the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham, said the instances of traders taking advantage of the situation and offering a raw deal for paddy were already pouring in from different areas. Traders offered Rs 700-800 for a 75-kg bag, against the minimum support price of Rs 1,050.

#### **Huge extent of damage**

Paddy in over 18,000 acres was affected in Narsapur and Mogaltur mandals alone in the district during the recent cyclones. The extent of damage is in the range of 50-70 per cent. A drive to the rural areas shows glimpses of farmers drying the harvested sheaves on the roads and farm labourers engaged in crop cutting.

## Farmer's notebook

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*key Role: There are more than 300 million small and marginal farmers in India.— Photo: Rohit Jain Paras*



# Pest management in precision farming nurseries

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Farmers are less sensitive to price when they are sure of quality planting material, its exclusiveness and the monetary compensations that will acquire from higher production. In the protray nurseries, pest management practices needs to be adopted in the following components such as nursery area, protrays, the substrate and spatial arrangement

## **Weed free**

The soil inside the shadenet nursery must be free from weeds and other unwanted materials as this would serve as alternate host for many insect and diseases.

The elevated substrate/soil where the protrays are kept must be drenched with disinfectant like sodium hypochlorite or formalin and fungicide like carbendazim.

The hybrids of different crops and different age group seedlings must be kept separately.

This will avoid the spread of the insect pests from the older seedlings to the young ones.

Many growers use protrays containing insect pest and disease infected seedlings are being reused without any treatment.

This will serve as recurrent inoculums for the ensuing batch of seedlings. Hence these trays must be treated with 0.1 per cent sodium hypochloride or 0.1 per cent carbendazim solution to disinfect the trays.

Decomposed cocopeat is mostly used as substrate for growing seedlings The substrate must be free from pest and disease incidence.

The nursery growers must remove the pest infested seedlings and the respective substrate from the nursery area and disinfect the trays.

Pseudomonas fluorescens mixed with cocopeat at 2.5 kg for 300 kg of media to avoid disease incidence in seedlings.

## **Moisture content**

The moisture content in the root medium must be kept optimum. The lower moisture content attracts ant incidence, whereas higher moisture content causes disease.

Different hybrids of crops have to be arranged age wise. The treatment given, batch details, variety name, company details must be mentioned in the labels.

This kind of arrangement will help to discard the insect and disease infected lot from the nursery area.

(P.S. Shanmugam. and K. Indhumathi are from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Papparpatty 636 809, Dharmapuri, Phone : 04342-245860.)

# Water supply to crops in 50,000 acres under LLC

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KURNOOL, November 28, 2013 - The Irrigation Advisory Board (IAB) meeting here resolved to supply water to existing crops in 50,000 acres under LLC and reserve water for drinking needs of people in the areas served by the canal.

Ministers T.G. Venkatesh, E. Pratap Reddy, MLAs Katasani Rambhupal Reddy, Channa Kesava Reddy, K.E. Prabhakar, MP SPY Reddy attended the meeting, which was presided over by Collector C. Sudharsan Reddy.

The Irrigation Department proposed to supply water in turn on a weekly basis to different distributaries. A total of 7.98 tmcft was available under the LLC quota.

The meeting approved to spare two tmcft for drinking water needs of Kurnool city from the KC canal quota and also supply water to 30,000 acres utilizing 6.792 tmcft available under KC canal. Also, the meeting decided to draw 5.78 tmcft from the quota of KC canal from the Srisailam reservoir. The water would be utilized to irrigate 50,000 acres between 150 km and 306 km. A request was made maintaining the level in Srisailam reservoir at 854 ft to ensure water flow to Srisailam canal.

A request was made to the government for permission to stock 13.5 tmcft in the Velugodu reservoir by feeding the reservoir through Srisailam canal to ensure water to KC canal and Telugu Ganga canals. The irrigation supply under Gajuladinne Project canal would be restricted to 10,000 acres making use of 1.95 tmcft water available in the reservoir.

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☑ ***Proposal to supply on a weekly basis to distributaries***

☑ ***A total of 7.98 tmcft was available under the LLC quota***

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## Rainwater harvesting in Chennai city to get fillip

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*The civic body will carry out re-engineering of facilities, including stormwater drains. —Photo: K. Pichumani*  
CHENNAI, November 28, 2013 - The Chennai Corporation is planning to carry out re-engineering of rainwater harvesting facilities in the city's water bodies spread over an area of 426 sq. km.

A meeting to discuss steps to be taken to improve rainwater harvesting, disaster preparedness, flood mitigation and drought relief in the city was held on Tuesday. More than 100 water bodies in the city, excluding the 19 water bodies managed by the Water Resources Department, have been identified as having untapped potential for rainwater harvesting.

The Corporation is planning to implement re-engineering of structures, including stormwater drains, in the neighbourhood of small lakes and ponds maintained by it. The works are likely to include redesign of stormwater drains, landscaping, desilting and plugging of illegal sewer inlets.

The civic body has studied data from a survey of water bodies, which was completed by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority a few years ago. "A senior official of the

erstwhile Ambattur municipality initiated the preparation of estimates for rainwater harvesting in Mangal Eri. But it is yet to be implemented completely. The residents have been requesting the Corporation to implement the project. This will help improve the groundwater level in the neighbourhood,” said K. Neelakandan, councillor of ward 92. The effort is expected to improve the level of disaster preparedness in the city by mitigating the problem of floods in vulnerable localities. The work would gain pace in the coming months and a complete disaster preparedness information system would be in place shortly, an official said.

According to civic body officials, the Water Resources Department and the Corporation will re-examine the condition of flood-affected areas. The agencies will also be evolving a plan to remove all obstacles for free flow of rainwater into water bodies.

The re-engineering of rainwater harvesting structures in temple tanks a few years ago has improved groundwater levels in areas such as Thiruvanmiyur.

The civic body is also planning to clear encroachments on water bodies that were identified recently. The re-engineering of the structures is expected to elicit protests from some residents who had allegedly constructed houses on encroached land, said an official of the Corporation.

## Water Levels

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**Madurai** - The water level in **Periyar dam** stood at 119.40 feet with an inflow of 1,929 cusecs and a discharge of 467 cusecs.

In **Vaigai dam**, the water level was 45.64 feet with an inflow and a discharge of 399 cusecs and 60 cusecs respectively.

Only **Periyar dam** had a rainfall of 4 mm in the 24 hour period ending 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, according to Public Works Department officials.

The level in the **Pechipparai dam** stood at 26.65 feet, while it was 61.05 feet in Perunchani, 12.17 feet in Chittar 1, 12.07 feet in Chittar 11, 4.20 feet in Poigai , 49.29 feet in the Mamabazathuraiyaru and 18 feet in the Mukkadal dam.

The water level in the **Mettur dam** stood at 85.43 feet on Wednesday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 8,339 cusecs and the discharge 5,000 cusecs.

## Cattle vaccinated

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Coimbatore Corporation on Saturday vaccinated for foot and mouth disease the 46 bullocks it uses in collecting garbage.

According to sources, as a preventive measure, the Corporation obtained the vaccines from the Animal Husbandry Department and vaccinated the cattle at its cattle yard in Devangapet.

The vaccination drive was carried out at the instructions of the Commissioner G. Latha.

# 1,18,500 cattle vaccinated

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TUTICORIN, November 28, 2013 - A total of 1,18,500 cattle have been screened at a foot-and-mouth disease control programme conducted across Tuticorin district, according to Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, R. Ramasamy.

These cattle were vaccinated at several villages. The fifth round of vaccination programme was taken up last month and the left-out cattle had been covered under this programme. Eight teams had been deputed to inspect shandies. Inspections were being carried out in eight goat shandies at villages in the district, which had no cow shandy. To prevent any possibility of marketing cows infected with food-and-mouth disease in such shandies, necessary steps were being taken, Dr. Ramasamy said here on Wednesday.

Besides, four teams were being engaged along the borders of the district to check and prevent cows entering from other districts to Tuticorin. Cattle owners had been informed to approach the nearest veterinary dispensaries immediately, if any cow was diagnosed with foot-and-mouth disease.

He said that adequate stock of medicines was available in dispensaries. Besides, bio-security measures were also being taken to ward off any attack of such disease in cows.

## 595 head of cattle died of FMD: official report

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*Deaths in T. Narsipur taluk put at 323*



*Devadas, Deputy Director of Department of Animal Husbandry, has said that one or two cattle deaths are still being reported from certain parts of the district.— PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM*

MYSORE, November 28, 2013 - Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) has claimed 595 head of cattle so far in Mysore district, with T. Narsipur taluk registering 323 deaths, according to the official report compiled from all seven taluks in the district on Wednesday.

The first incident of FMD outbreak in the district was reported at Bannur in T. Narsipur taluk in the second week of August.

All 595 cases will now be eligible to receive compensation. Among other taluks, as many as 77 head of cattle each died in H.D. Kote and K.R. Nagar taluks, 43 in Hunsur taluk, 15 in Periyapatna taluk and four in Nanjangud taluk, all of which will be eligible for compensation. Most of the dead animals were calves.

Deputy Director of Department of Animal Husbandry, Devadas, told *The Hindu* that one or two cattle deaths were still being reported from certain parts of the district. The department, which received reports from all taluks following a mahajar conducted by the

committee set up for the purpose, including veterinarians, has sent a proposal to the Commissionerate of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services to release Rs. 20.69 lakh for compensation to 124 beneficiaries in the four taluks — four in Nanjangud, 39 in Hunsur, 66 in K.R. Nagar and 15 in Periyapatna, Dr. Devadas said.

As per the government order, compensation for the death of a cow will be a maximum of Rs. 25,000, followed by Rs. 20,000 for a bullock and buffalo and Rs. 10,000 each for calves. In all, as many as 91 veterinarians were involved in tackling the problem in Mysore district so far, apart from veterinary inspectors and other employees.

Meanwhile, the taluk-level committees appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the exact cause of cattle death had run into a problem where they were under pressure from some farmers to attribute the deaths of their cattle to FMD.

For instance, initial reports stated that Mysore taluk had recorded as many as 170 deaths of head of cattle, but after the committee made thorough investigation the number came down to 56, Dr. Devadas said.

Similarly, initial toll from T. Narsipur was 720, but after the verifications it came down to 323. In most cases, claimants were not able to provide proof for the deaths of animals.

As per the 2011 animal census, there are 5.6 lakh head of cattle in the district. As many as 4.81 lakh were covered in the first round of vaccination in the district in January-February this year, and in the current drive (August-September) about 95 per cent had been covered so far, Dr. Devadas said. The next round will be in February next.

Among other reasons, some had died because of wrong 'drenching', meaning incorrect administration of gruel to the affected cattle.

Most of them were unaware of the right way of feeding animals, resulting in aspiratory pneumonia. Hemorrhagic septicaemia (HS), a bacterial infection, too had accounted for certain deaths, the laboratory report had confirmed.

## Wholesale egg rate crosses Rs. 4

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NAMAKKAL, November 28, 2013 - The wholesale price of egg in Namakkal Zone crossed the Rs. 4 mark for the first time on November 25, Monday, when it was fixed at Rs. 4.03 by the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) here.

The price was hiked despite the drop in demand for egg in Tamil Nadu and Kerala due to the Sabarimala season.

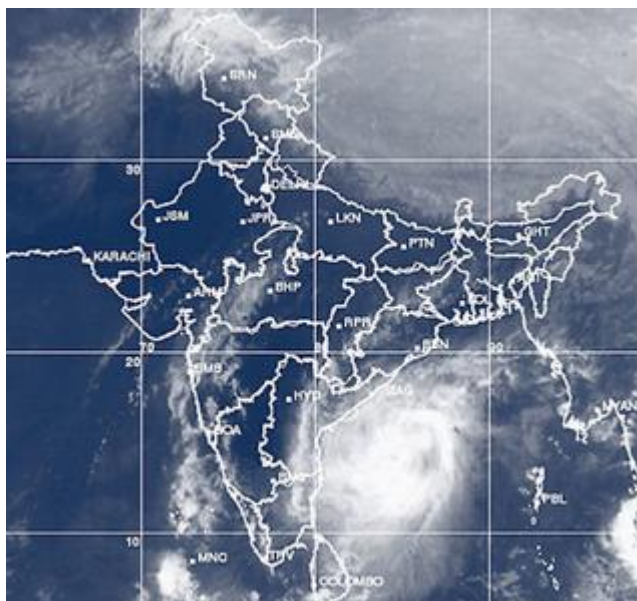
On November 12, the price of egg was Rs. 3.90.

Subsequently, it increased to Rs. 3.96 (November 14), Rs. 3.98 (November 22).

The reason behind the hike was attributed to the demand for egg in North India – that resulted in price hike of the commodity in many zones across the country. "Of the daily production in this region that is little more than three crore eggs, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are the major markets", says egg trader V. Kumar. He added that consumption of eggs has dropped by 20 per cent (45 lakh eggs) in Tamil Nadu and in Kerala due to the Sabarimala season. But it has not stopped the wholesale price of egg from soaring higher because of the demand for egg in the Northern States.

# Weather

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INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on November 27.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	33	21	0	51
Arogyavaram	29	18	0	181
Bapatla	32	22	0	545
Calingapatnam	29	18	0	980
Gannavaram	32	21	0	513
Hanamkonda	32	21	0	291
Hyderabad AP	31	15	0	248
Kakinada	31	21	0	695
Khammam	32	18	0	100
Kavali	32	22	0	545
Kurnool	33	21	0	98
Mahabubnagar	30	17	0	163
Machilipatnam	31	22	0	477
Nandyal	33	21	0	77
Narasapur	33	21	0	646
Nellore	33	24	0	439
Nizamabad	32	16	0	118
Ongole	33	22	0	516
Ramagundam	31	14	0	201
Tirupathi AP	32	21	0	369
Tuni	32	21	0	512
Vizag AP	31	20	0	713
Vizag	29	19	0	695

## KARNATAKA

Agumbe	31	17	0	613
Bengaluru AP	29	18	0	192

Bengaluru	29	19	0	244
Bagalkote	33	18	0	—
Belgaum AP	31	18	tr	61
Bellary	33	20	0	63
Bijapur	31	17	0	113
Chitradurga	31	18	0	55
Chickmagalur	29	17	0	57
Chintamani	29	16	0	74
Gadag	31	19	0	88
Gulbarga	34	19	0	37
Hassan	30	19	0	114
Honavar	35	24	4	266
Karwar	36	25	tr	167
Madikeri	25	17	0	195
Mangalore AP	34	23	33	338
Mysore	29	21	2	183
Mandya	30	19	0	172
Panambur	34	24	1	236
Raichur	32	17	0	102
Shirali	34	24	6	420
<b>KERALA</b>				
Alappuzha	31	24	0	388
Kannur	32	25	tr	333
Kochi AP	32	23	tr	528
Kottayam	33	23	9	511
Kozhikode	33	25	0	300
Punalur	33	22	37	700
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	31	23	0	466
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	31	24	0	487
Vellanikkara	33	24	6	456
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>				
Adiramapattinam	32	25	0	141
Chennai	32	23	0	351
Chennai AP	32	22	0	405
Coimbatore AP	32	23	0	135
Coonoor	19	13	5	484
Cuddalore	31	22	0	305
Dharmapuri	31	21	0	263
Kanyakumari	32	24	0	272
Karaikal	30	24	0	340
Kodaikanal	19	11	0	229
Madurai AP	35	23	0	215
Nagapattinam	30	23	0	307
Palayamkottai	33	24	0	285
Pamban	31	26	0	246

Parangipettai	32	23	0	517
Puducherry	32	22	0	312
Salem	33	20	0	209
Thanjavur	31	25	0	197
Tiruchi AP	32	23	0	321
Tirupattur	30	21	0	178
Tiruttani	32	19	0	319
Tondi	31	24	0	282
Tuticorin	31	24	0	270
Ooty	19	11	0	250
Valparai	26	16	0	345
Vellore	32	22	0	102
<b>LAKSHADWEEP</b>				
Amini Divi	34	26	1	167
Minicoy	32	26	0	124
Kavarathi	—	—	—	—
<b>OTHER STATIONS</b>				
Kolkata (Alipore)	28	17	0	523
Mumbai	32	25	0	73
New Delhi	29	13	0	73

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

DRY WEATHER

IN A.P.

**CHENNAI:** The very severe cyclonic storm 'LEHAR' over westcentral and adjoining south Bay of Bengal moved west-northwestward with a speed of 15 kmph during past six hrs and lay centred at 1130 hours IST of today, the 27th November 2013 over the westcentral and adjoining south Bay of Bengal near latitude 14.00 N and longitude 86.00 E, about 570 km east-southeast of Machilipatnam and 510 km southeast of Kakinada. The system would move west-northwestwards and cross Andhra Pradesh coast near Machilipatnam around 28th November afternoon. Rainfall occurred at many places over coastal Karnataka and at a few places over Kerala. Isolated rainfall occurred over Tamil Nadu, interior Karnataka and Lakshadweep. Dry weather prevailed over Andhra Pradesh. The minimum temperature fell markedly at most places over Telangana, fell appreciably at one or two places over north coastal Andhra Pradesh. They were appreciably below normal at one or two places over north coastal Andhra Pradesh, .

**FORECAST (valid until Friday morning):** Rain or thundershower would occur at many places over coastal Andhra Pradesh and at a few places over Kerala, Lakshadweep, Rayalaseema and coastal Karnataka. Isolated rain or thundershower may occur over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Telangana and Interior Karnataka.



# Weather

Chennai - INDIA

## Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Nov 28

Max 29° | Min 22°

Rain: 0  
Humidity: 74  
Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:13  
Sunset: 05:39  
Barometer: 1011

## Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Friday, Nov 29

Max 31° | Min 24°

## Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday Nov 30	Sunday Dec 1	Monday Dec 2	Tuesday Dec 3	Wednesday Dec 4
31°   24° Partly Cloudy	27°   24° Overcast	27°   25° Overcast	26°   25° Overcast	27°   25° Overcast

# The Indian EXPRESS

## Sugarcane farmers begin 48-hour bandh in Maharashtra



*There will be no supply of vegetables milk to metros like Pune and Mumbai. (PTI)*

The 48 hours strike in the sugarcane belt of the state called by Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghathana (SSS) to demand for more price for sugar cane started on Thursday. A state transport bus was alleged to have been set on fire by the agitating

farmers late on Wednesday night in Satara. Sadabhabu Khot, senior leader of SSS has blamed the state government for its failure to listen to the woes of sugarcane farmers which has resulted in this bandh call.

"There will be no supply of vegetables milk to metros like Pune and Mumbai and we will not allow any of the state transport buses to run. This is the only way we can bring attention to our woes," stated Khot. It is expected the bandh would bring life to a halt in Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Solapur, and many parts in Vidharbha.

The farmers have been agitating for better price of their crops, but the state government has failed to arrive at any consensus in the matter. Cooperative sugarcane factories have expressed their inability to give the price asked by farmers which they say is way beyond their means. Khot dismissing this has called the government insensitive to the plight of the farmers.

The sugarcane rich parts of Maharashtra last year also had erupted in violence over the issue, with two farmers loosing their lives in police firing. Many state transport buses were also torched and life had come to a halt in those parts.

## THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

# Rural India shows signs of economic revival but wider outlook glum

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By Rajendra Jadhav and Rajesh Kumar Singh | Reuters - NEW DELHI/SHIRDHON



*An Indian woman makes bunches after harvesting at Mayong village on the outskirts of Gauhati, India, Monday, Nov. 18, 2013. (AP)*

Pandurang Ghorpade has the weather to thank as he hands out celebratory sweets to neighbours eager for a ride on his prized new possession, a gleaming red tractor bought in anticipation of a bumper harvest.

"Unlike last year, there wasn't any shortage of water this year," Ghorpade said. "My earnings are likely to rise from sugar cane and ginger crops that have grown vigorously." The best monsoon in six years means similar scenes to the one in Shirdhon southeast of Mumbai are being played out across much of rural India, home to two-thirds of the 1.2 billion population. It also means sales of tractors and motorbikes are surging, raising hopes this pick up in activity will spread and feed a wider revival in an economy that has slumped to its worst growth in a decade.

But the benefits may be fleeting because rural growth alone will not be enough to pull India's economy out of the doldrums longer term. The countryside produces only a third of India's gross domestic product and in the urban areas that drive growth, business in showrooms and shopping malls is still shrinking.

"As we sit in mid-November, we have not seen signs to suggest that there is a significant increase in output," Tushar Poddar, chief India economist at Goldman Sachs, said in a conference call last week.

The economy is battling to recover from a significant slump. Growth slid in the fiscal year to March 2013 to just 5 percent, the lowest pace since 2002/03, as a stalled reform agenda prompted investors to flee. A vulnerable current account swelled to a record deficit, knocking the rupee to a record low.

Since then, rural demand and other encouraging signs - a revival in exports and a narrowing of the current account deficit - have given India's policymakers reason to think the worst of the two-year slump may be over.

Tractor sales in India rose nearly 29 percent in October from a year earlier, reaching a record high of 94,227 units. Sales of motorbikes, bought when farmers graduate from bicycles, jumped 18 percent in the same month.

Consumer goods companies like Hindustan Unilever and natural health care firm Dabur are trying to boost rural sales. Helped by the boon, Dabur's net profit jumped by 23 percent in the September quarter from a year earlier.

"We are seeing demand from rural India outpacing the urban markets," Dabur said in its earnings release late last month.

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram also sees the rural rebound and exports revival as encouraging, suggesting they would help the economy recover in the second half of the fiscal year ending on March 31.

But by the government's own estimates, expansion for the full fiscal year could be as low as the 5 percent recorded last year, a far cry from the 8-9 percent growth rates the government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has aspired to in recent years.

Some economists, such as Poddar, argue even 5 percent may be ambitious. High inflation is impinging on urban demand and businesses are holding back investment until they can see the shape of a new Indian government due to be elected by May 2014.

The central bank under new governor Raghuram Rajan has already raised its policy interest rates twice to counter inflation, adding to borrowing costs.

The competing pressures on the economy are expected to be reflected in a report on Friday on India's GDP for July to September. Although annual growth is seen rising to 4.6 percent, a little better than the previous quarter, the data will likely show the economy is not firing in all areas.

That is familiar to India's largest utility vehicle maker Mahindra and Mahindra. While the company's tractor sales jumped 21 percent as the monsoon rains fell between July and September, sales of passenger vehicles including SUVs, mostly bought in the cities, slumped 25 percent.

#### Bright Spots

Exports have gained sharply from the competitive boost from India's weak currency, which is now above its record low but still near historically weak levels.

Overseas sales generate nearly a quarter of GDP and merchandise exports have been posting double-digit growth since July, the best run in nearly two years.

Textiles, in particular, have made the most of a weak rupee. Exports from the sector have grown an annual 12 percent this year compared with a 9 percent fall last year. Most garment exporters are either running at full capacity or have outsourced manufacturing jobs to meet rising overseas demand.

But the good times have so far not encouraged other industries to make the kinds of investment in adding production capacity that would help kickstart wider economic growth - partly because domestic demand remains depressed.

India's iron and steel industry, for example, is relying on its idle capacity to sustain double-digit growth in overseas sales that it recorded between April and September.

Seshagiri Rao, joint managing director of JSW Steel, blamed subdued domestic demand from major steel consuming industries such as real estate, infrastructure and autos.

"This will have to come back again only then we will see steel consumption growth in India," he said.

Weak investment lies at the heart of India's economic malaise. Capital investments crawled at a decade-low of 1.7 percent last fiscal year. Goldman Sachs expects investment growth to slow further to 1.2 percent this fiscal year, dragging down overall economic growth to 4.3 percent.

To lift the sagging investment rate, the government has expedited clearances for big ticket infrastructure projects. But the impact on the ground has yet to be felt.

"Do I see a significant improvement in (investment) activity over the next three to four months? I would say we have not seen evidence to suggest that," Poddar said.

## Lady with the green thumb

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By Sangeeta Cavale Radhakrishna



She recently won the prestigious Javaraya Award from Bangalore's Lalbagh Horticulture Centre for her outstanding ornamental garden. Usually this trophy is given to corporates and government offices for the best garden. It is not surprising that Priya Mascaren has also won over 50 other trophies in the last 35 years for her pride and joy.

The fusion tropical garden at Mohan and Priya

Mascaren's 140-year-old home is one of breathtaking beauty. It has a peaceful Japanese corner with a bridge, waterfall, Feng Shui garden with wind chimes, plants like asparagus, ferns and philodendron, deframbakia and selvas.

What is surprising though is the fact that she has never employed professional landscape architects and does not even keep gardeners. "I like to get my hands dirty and have trained a few maids at home to tend to the garden," she says.

The daughter of a coffee planter, Priya grew up on a plantation and developed a deep love and understanding of plants and flowers. Later her daughter Champa, a special child, would respond positively to the garden and would love playing in it. Her face lights up even today when she is outdoors amidst the flowers and fountains.

This is what truly inspired and motivated businesswoman and old-time Bangalorean Priya to take up gardening as a serious hobby.

"This garden has great emotional significance for me and I have worked hard for 35 years to bring it to this level," says Priya. "It is like my child and is a part of me," she says.

Tropical plants and flowers are the USP of this exquisite garden. Ginger Lilies from Bali, Heliconia from Thailand and South America, even exotic plants from Hawaii adorn the place. There are as many as 16 varieties of just Heliconia. Pretty Impatience flowers can be seen too. There's a small lily pond right outside the house. There are four fountains and wonderful lighting all over which transforms the place at night, giving it a magical edge.

At the four corners are fruit trees such as fig, bread fruit, mango, jackfruit, custard apple, rose apple, Bimbli and more. You won't find any roses here as Priya is not particularly fond of them. Near the kitchen at the back of the house is a cosy kitchen garden. There is a star berry tree too, the fruit of which is used to give the fish curry at home a nice, tangy flavour. Gardening is quite like cooking says Priya. "You are always learning so you should be humble and open to ideas and suggestions," she says. Priya says she learnt a lot from books, from other people and now from the Internet. "It is important to realise that you do not know everything and constantly try to educate yourself," she says. An avid traveller, Priya and her husband Mohan have travelled to 76 countries and have visited some of the best gardens on the planet. This has only further motivated her to keep her garden green and pretty over the years.

"People wonder why I have not hung up my boots yet and why I continue to work so hard on maintaining the garden," says Priya. She adds, "For me this garden is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. It gives me spiritual bliss and strength to deal with the challenges of life." Time spent in the garden is a great stress buster as well. Priya often sits on a bench and meditates peacefully or soaks in the sights and sounds.

When it rains, the whole place comes alive with beauty and she feels refreshed and revived. "Gardening certainly has many therapeutic benefits," says the expert. And she would surely know.

# THE HINDU Business Line

## Better option

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*Encouraging incentive: A farmer tends his wheat farm at Napla Khedi village in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district. The area under wheat in Madhya Pradesh is likely to increase this year as many are planting the cereal. A bonus of Rs 150 a quintal for wheat last year in Madhya Pradesh over and above the minimum support price of Rs 1,350 is encouraging farmers to opt for wheat. — Kamal Narang*

## Demanding higher price, ginger growers hold back produce

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**Kochi, Nov. 27:** Ginger prices are ruling at higher despite the crop being 30 per cent higher than last year. At this time last year, prices ranged from Rs 1,600 to Rs 1,800 for a 60-kg bag, depending on the area of where the spice was produced.

Traders in Karnataka, the main ginger-growing region, said that since prices shot up to around Rs 9,000 a bag last year, no one is willing to sell below Rs 2,500 this year. "The supply-demand fundamental is not working now," they said. Besides, growers appear to have resorted to a market intervention exercise on their own, releasing only in small quantities. These too are of medium and low quality material.

The high quality material is likely to be retained till April-June. It will be sold as old ginger as it fetches good prices during the lean period, said P.V. Eliyas, a grower and trader in Mysore district. He told *Business Line* that much of the ginger grown is used as vegetable since it contains high fibre. Therefore, it is not used for drying as the recovery rate is only 12.5 per cent.

Himachal and Maran varieties and Kerala's Varadha and Rejitha varieties are suitable for conversion to dry ginger as they have a recovery rate of over 30 per cent. Major markets are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Ginger from Karnataka goes to Delhi and Rajasthan depending on the demand, he said. He said 78-80 per cent of total ginger cultivation in South India is in Karnataka and major growers are from Kerala. They do it by taking land on lease.

According to a farmer, about Rs 3.5 lakh will have to be invested to cultivate ginger on one acre. All inputs cost have increased significantly. The yield per acre on an average worked out to 300 bags of 60 kg, i.e., 18 tonnes, he said.

Kochi-based major ginger traders said non-remunerative prices had led to gradual disappearance of cultivation of high quality 'Cochin ginger', considered as one of the best in the world market in view of its lemon-like flavour and the absence of fibre content.

The country is the largest producer of ginger with a production 7.45 lakh tonnes from an area of 1.58 lakh hectares, according to the advance estimate made by the Spices Board for 2012-13.

## Cotton prices unlikely to fall below support levels despite pressure

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Rates may drop Rs 1,000/candy as arrivals gather pace

Farmers likely to hold back produce.

**Chennai, Nov. 27:** Cotton prices are likely to come under pressure but they may not drop below the minimum support price fixed by the Government this year.

"Currently, Shankar-6 is quoting at Rs 39,000-40,000 for a candy of 356 kg. Prices may drop another Rs 1,000 but not more than that," said Anand K. Poppat of Saurashtra Ginners Association.

The Shankar-6 variety is the one in demand for exports.

“Prices will come under pressure once arrivals pick up, given the sluggish buying activity now. But farmers are smart enough not to allow a further fall in prices,” said A. Ramani, a cotton trade analyst.

A major reason why prices will not fall below the support level is that farmers are likely to hold back their produce as they have the financial power, said Poppat and Ramani.

For the current season that began in October, the Centre has fixed Rs 4,000 a quintal as minimum support price for long-staple raw cotton varieties such as Shankar-6, Bunny and Brahma. For medium-staple raw varieties such as F-414 and J-34, the support price is Rs 3,700.

Currently, prices for Shankar-6 raw cotton are ruling at Rs 4,800 in Rajkot. Prices for raw cotton varieties such as F-414 and J-34 are ruling above Rs 5,000.

“These days, farmers are also moving their produce to markets where they can fetch higher prices,” said Ramani.

Fears were raised by a section of the trade that the Government may have started buying the natural fibre from farmers as part of its market intervention programme after the Cotton Association of India’s projection of a record crop.

The association has pegged the output this season at 380.5 lakh bales (of 170 kg). The estimate is against last year’s production of 334 lakh bales.

“Production will be a record this year, so there will be pressure on prices. The Corporation may have to buy cotton in Andhra Pradesh on behalf of the Centre,” said Poppat.

This will be required mainly as the crop quality in that State has been affected by rains over the last few weeks.

“Usually, cotton is under-priced in the South. Therefore, it may require some support,” said Ramani. “Prices will rule below Rs 40,000 a candy but will not drop below the support price. This is because once the arrivals gather pace, mills will begin buying,” said D.K. Nair, Secretary-General of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

Demand for cotton is expected to be good this year with all segments of the textile industry experiencing growth, said Nair.

“Power shortage in the South is beginning to affect the textile industry. If that is set right, then we should see good demand,” said Poppat. A section of the industry, however, has a different view, saying the economic slowdown could hurt the demand for cotton and drag down prices.

Besides domestic demand, export could also come in handy to rescue cotton growers.

“Demand from China continues despite the Government there unloading its stockpiles. We also are getting demand from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Turkey and Vietnam,” said Poppat. The Chinese Government is procuring cotton for its stockpile at 20,400 yuan (Rs 2.08 lakh) a tonne and selling it at 19,000 yuan (Rs 1.94 lakh). Our cotton costs hardly Rs 1.25 lakh a tonne on landing there. So, Chinese mills still prefer to import,” said Poppat.

Nair and Ramani said the Chinese cotton import policy will play a role in Indian exports. “No one is sure how China will play its cards. Exports hinge on that,” said Nair. Despite this, cotton exports could be around 70-80 lakh bales, said Ramani. Last season, exports totalled 81 lakh bales against 129.59 lakh bales in 2011-12. Globally, cotton prices are seen ruling stable at the lower end after having slipped about 20 per cent since August.

There may be pressure on prices, given the forecast of a record global crop following higher production in the US and India. “Global prices are unlikely to be bullish,” said Ramani. On Wednesday, cotton contract maturing for delivery on ICE US ruled lower at 78.76 cents a pound.



# Castorseed gains on export demand

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**Rajkot, Nov. 27:** Castorseed prices moved up on the back of fresh export demand. Moreover, there was short covering by traders in the futures market. Castor oil also gained. On the Rajkot Commodity Exchange castorseed December contracts increased by Rs 79 to Rs 3,978 a quintal, while March contracts improved by Rs 85 to Rs 4,235. RCX spot castorseed price gained Rs 42.50 at Rs 3,710. About 30,000-35,000 bags of castorseed arrived in Gujarat and prices quoted at Rs 750-752 for 20 kg. Around 4,300-4,400 bags arrived in Saurashtra and quoted at Rs 680-735. Castor oil gained Rs 10 at Rs 785 for 10 kg. On the NCDEX castor January contract increased Rs 63 to Rs 47,388 with an open interest of 181,490 lots. NCDEX February castor was up by Rs 100 at Rs 4,345 with an open interest of 90,130 lots.

Traders said that export demand has gained over the last few days. Moreover, domestic demand also improved encouraging buying by mills.

# Poultry-feed may rule stable

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**Karnal, Nov. 27:** Following volatility in prices of key ingredients, poultry feed prices remained unchanged on Wednesday.

Aditya Mishra, an expert, told *Business Line* that despite some correction in the prices of soyameal and a few other ingredients, prices of poultry feed products were unchanged as traders are waiting for the input costs to stabilise.

Traders are getting good demand from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States as well.

According to trade experts, feed prices may continue to rule stable in the coming days.

In the physical market, soyameal dropped by Rs 400 to Rs 35,300 a tonne, while bajra improved by Rs 100 to Rs 12,900 a quintal. Di-calcium phosphate eased by 10 paise and settled at Rs 34.70 a kg, MBM moved down by 70 paise and sold at Rs 31.80 a kg while maize went up by Rs 5 at Rs 1,495 a quintal. Rice bran oil was at Rs 65 a kg, DRB eased by Rs 100 at Rs 8,000, while mustard de-oiled cake moved down by Rs 100 at Rs 15,000 a tonne. Broiler concentrate was quoted at Rs 2,010 while broiler starter mash sold at Rs 1,550 for a 50 kg bag. Pre-lay mash sold at Rs 1,040. Layer concentrate 25 per cent was at Rs 1,480 while Layer concentrate 35 per cent sold at Rs 1,165.

## **Poultry Products**

Meanwhile, a mixed trend was witnessed in the poultry products market on Wednesday.

Egg eased by 6 paise to Rs 4.06, while chick went up by Rs 2 at Rs 25.

# Mixed trend in spot rubber

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**Kottayam, Nov.27:** Physical rubber prices showed a mixed mood on Wednesday. Sellers stayed back in most counters, following a better closing in domestic futures.

According to growers, they were experiencing a decline in production as tapping days were few due to intermittent rains”.

Sheet rubber closed unchanged at Rs 151 a kg, according to traders. The grade was quoted steady at Rs 152 and Rs 149 respectively, by the Rubber Board and dealers.

December futures improved to Rs 153 (Rs 151.46), January to Rs 154.97 (Rs 153.23), February to Rs 157.50 (Rs 156.34) April to Rs 160.81 (Rs 158.47) while March futures were inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) declined to Rs 154.30 (Rs 155.48) at Bangkok. December futures closed at ¥252.3 (Rs 154.31) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg: RSS-4: 151 (151); RSS-5: 142 (142); Ungraded: 135 (138); ISNR 20: 144.50 (145) and Latex 60%: 105 (105).

## Coonoor tea sale volume hits 8-week low

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**Coonoor, Nov. 27:** A volume of 16.36 lakh kg has been catalogued for Sale No: 48 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auction to be held on Thursday and Friday, reveals our analysis of the brokers’ listing.

This is the lowest volume in eight weeks. It is some 43,000 kg less than last week’s offer but as much as 5.46 lakh kg more than the offer this time last year.

Of the 16.36 lakh kg on offer, 10.83 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 5.53 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades.

As much as 15.63 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 0.73 lakh kg, orthodox variety.

In the leaf counter, only 0.38 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 10.45 lakh kg, CTC.

Among the dusts, only 0.35 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 5.18 lakh kg, CTC.

About 1.03 lakh kg of tea unsold in previous auctions has been re-catalogued. In the leaf sale last week, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) was fairly active on good and medium varieties, but Tata Global Beverages and Duncans Tea Ltd did not operate.

In the dust sale, HUL, Duncans and Tata Global did not operate. Indcoserve chose smaller dusts.

Upcountry buyers preferred only brighter liquoring teas. Internal buyers were selective.

Average price rose to Rs 76.78 a kg from Rs 74.84 in the previous week but this pulled down the volume sold to 14.72 lakh kg from previous week’s 15.52 lakh kg.

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## Stock holding limit may be extended by a year for paddy, rice

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**New Delhi, Nov 27:** The Centre is likely to extend the stock holding limit for some of the essential commodities such as paddy and rice by another year. The limit, imposed under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, is lapsing on November 30.

The Centre's view to extend the stock limit is to check food inflation that increased to over 18 per cent in October. The Cabinet will take up the proposal on Thursday.

However, Gujarat, West Bengal and Assam have opposed the proposal.

exemption

The Cabinet is also likely to consider granting exemption to exporters of some agriculture produce from the stock limit.

Since trading of commodities is a State subject, so views were sought from them.

A senior Government official told *Business Line* that 11 States and three Union Territories responded to the Centre's proposal. Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Odisha and Tripura are among States supporting the the move. Among Union Territories, Delhi is in favour of extending the limit.

### **de-hoarding operations**

The Essential Commodities Act provides for the issue of control orders by the Centre enabling States to undertake de-hoarding operations through fixing of stock-holding limits and licensing requirements on private traders.

Based on the order, every States fixes its own limit.

Any one holding beyond the limit can face action from the local authorities which include seizure of the goods and penalty.

Currently this mechanism is applicable for rice, paddy, edible oils, edible oil seeds and sugar. Rice production is estimated at 92.3 million tonnes during the current kharif marketing season against 85.6 mt last year.

In fact, the total area under paddy increased to 381.47 lakh hectares this year against 373.26 lakh hectares in 2012-13.

### **Relief for exporters**

In another proposal, the Cabinet is also likely to provide relief to exporters of agriculture produce.

“The proposal talks about providing exemption from the provision of stock limit with respect to exporters of rice, edible oils and edible oilseeds,” the official said.

Wholesale prices of edible oils have dropped in October on yearly basis, while oilseed prices have increased marginally by 1.4 per cent.

Prices are likely to be subdued on account of higher sowing in the current crop year ending June.

shishir.s@thehindu.co.in

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***“The proposal talks about providing exemption from the provision of stock limit with respect to exporters of rice, edible oils and edible oilseeds.”***

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## Lower rates attract edible oil traders

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**Mumbai, Nov. 27:** Palmolein prices declined by Rs 9 on the edible oils market, while soya oil rose by Rs 5 for 10 kg showing mixed trend in imported oils. Indigenous oils such as groundnut oil and sunflower expeller refined oil declined by Rs 10 each, while cotton and rapeseed oil dropped by Rs 5 each due to higher selling pressure amid lack of demand. Sources said that despite slack demand sentiments turned positive in the local markets in the evening on expectation of improvement in demand.

In Mumbai, traders came up with fresh orders after two days to take the advantage of lower resale rates.

Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 610, super palmolein at Rs 630 and super deluxe at Rs 650, soyabean refined oil at Rs 685 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 775.

Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 610, soyabean refined oil at Rs 675 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 725. Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 612, super palmolein at Rs 628, super deluxe at Rs 648, soyabean refined oil at Rs 690 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 770.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil was steady at Rs 1,300 for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) Rs 825 (Rs 825). Soyabean arrivals were 3.60 lakh bags and its prices were Rs 3,620-3,800 in Maharashtra and Rs 3,650-3,900 ex mandi and Rs 3,900-60 plant delivery in Madhya Pradesh.

Mustard seed arrivals were 1.05 lakh bags and its prices were Rs 3,300-3,700.

**Malaysia BMD crude palm oil** December contracts settled at MYR 2,620 (MYR 2,613), January at MYR 2,639 (MYR 2,621) and February at MYR 2,640 (MYR 2,622).

**The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were:** groundnut oil 850 (860), soya refined oil 675 (670), sunflower exp. ref. 670 (680), sunflower ref. 730 (730), rapeseed ref. oil 757(762), rapeseed expeller ref. 727 (732) cottonseed ref. oil 660 (665) and palmolein 591 (600).

**Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd** quoted Rs 670/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein December delivery.

## Selling pressure cools pepper

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**Kochi, Nov. 27:** The downtrend continued in pepper prices on spot and futures markets on Wednesday following selling pressure amidst weak demand. Reseller and some primary market dealers in Wayanad (Pulpally and Bathery) sold.

Meanwhile, Karnataka sellers were reportedly offering to deliver anywhere in the country at Rs 500 a kg.

There were no buyers in a declining market. All these factors aided the price

fall, market sources told *Business Line*.

On the spot, 30 tonnes of pepper arrived and they were traded at Rs 488-492 depending on the quality and area of production.

On the NMCE, December and January contracts fell by Rs 527 and Rs 125 respectively to Rs 51,490 and Rs 50,700 a quintal.

The total turnover increased to 28 tonnes. Total open interest decreased to five tonnes.

Spot prices decreased by Rs 200 to Rs 48,800 (ungarbled) and Rs 50,800 (garbled) a quintal.

Export prices ruled at \$8,650 (c&f) for Europe and \$8,900 a tonne (c&f) for the US .

Overseas markets which needed material from December to February might turn to India if the parity remains competitive, they said.

Prices quoted for other origins according to a report today were: L Asta from resellers: \$8,490-8,775; V Asta parity only: \$8,690 a tonne and B Asta about \$7,950 (fob).

## N. India orders continue to flow for turmeric

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**Erode, Nov. 27:** Spot turmeric prices ruled stable on Wednesday on the back of a few orders from North India. "Local traders have received reasonable orders for the yellow spice; similarly exporters have obtained a few upcountry orders for the quality turmeric. So, the sale was very encouraging. Further, turmeric from other States is not coming here, as no Erode trader is buying from Andhra Pradesh or Assam or Maharashtra," said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He further said that farmers are now bringing quality and medium variety turmeric. This has encouraged traders to buy. The demand for the fine variety turmeric is on the rise from North India.

On Wednesday, 4,080 bags arrived for sale of which 75 per cent was sold.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,151-6,503 a quintal; the root variety Rs 4,019-5,555.

**Salem Hybrid:** The finger variety fetched Rs 5,819-6,868 and the root variety Rs 5,011-5,919. Of the 1,160 bags that arrived, only 410 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,409-6,324 and the root variety Rs 4,665-5,584.

Of the 542 bags on offer, 527 were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 5,101-6,399; the root variety Rs 4,739-5,569.

All the 695 bags were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,039-6,419 and the root variety Rs 4,672-5,450.

All the 123 bags found takers.

## Slack offtake takes pulses off the boil

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**Indore, Nov. 27:** The sluggish trend in pulses and pulse seeds continued on slack buying. Weak demand has dragged tur prices in Indore mandis in the past one week by Rs 100 with tur (Maharashtra) on Wednesday being quoted at Rs 4,300-50, while tur (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at Rs 4,100-4,200 a quintal. In the past three weeks, tur prices in Indore mandis have almost declined by Rs 300 a quintal.



According to Kamal Agrawal, a trader, any rally in tur is unlikely in the coming days, as the new crop will arrive in mandis in a fortnight.

Sluggish demand has also dragged tur dal in local mandis in the past one week by Rs 300-Rs 400 a quintal with tur dal (full) being quoted at Rs 6,500-6,600, tur dal (sawa no.) at Rs 5,800-6,000, while tur dal marka was quoted at Rs 7,100-7,300. Urad and moong also ruled flat 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 Rs 5,100-5,200, urad dal (bold) at Rs 5,300-5,400, while urad mongar ruled at Rs 5,800-6,200. Similarly moong and is dal also ruled steady with moong (Maharashtra) was being quoted at Rs 5,800-6,100, while moong (medium) ruled at Rs 5,000-

5,400. Compared to last week, moong is down Rs 100 a quintal.

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

According to traders here, the sluggish trend will likely continue in pulses unless and until buying picks up.

## Sugar rules flat on ample supplies

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**Mumbai, Nov. 27:** Sugar prices ruled steady on the Vashi wholesale market on Wednesday, while they improved on the futures market.

Trading at *Naka* took place at previous day's level. Mills sold M-grade Rs 10 a quintal lower on slack demand.

An observer said that in the physical market despite delay in crushing sugar prices are ruling lower than production cost due to higher carryover stocks. Even at distribution (market) points,

ample stocks are available.

The Vashi market has been carrying over 110- 115 truckloads stock for quite sometime. Neighbouring States' buying is lacking in Maharashtra as prices in other producing centres are ruling at a par with the State, he said.

Arrivals at the Vashi market were 61-62 truckloads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 59-60 loads.

On Tuesday evening, 19-20 mills offered tenders and sold 54,000-55,000 bags at Rs 2,690-2,790 (Rs 2,690-2,790) for S-grade and Rs 2,800-3,000 (Rs 2,810-3,010) for M-grade.

**The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,840-2,966 (Rs 2,840-2,970) and M-grade Rs 3,006-3,222 (Rs 3,006-3,222).

**Naka delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,810-2,900 (Rs 2,810-2,900) and M-grade Rs 2,900-3,110 (Rs 2,900-3,130).

**Uttar Pradesh rates were:** Hapur Rs 3,150.

## Coconut oil may slip on panic sales

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**Kochi, Nov. 27:** The coconut oil market is headed for a correction after prices touched a record a record Rs 115/kg. Prices have dropped to Rs 110 a kg in Kerala this week.

In Tamil Nadu, coconut oil was quoted at Rs 108 against Rs 110 last week. Copra prices have declined to Rs 80/kg in Kerala from Rs 83 and in Tamil Nadu, it has dropped to Rs 78 (Rs 80).

Prakash B. Rao, President, Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA), attributed the reasons for correction to corporates staying away from markets in the last four days. Major corporates, he said, have built up huge stocks and they will re-enter once prices start coming down.

Traders holding copra stocks have started booking profits. The market is likely to decline further on account of panic sales, he said.

It is also reported that copra from Sabarimala has started reaching oil crushing units. This second grade copra will be used for converting coconut oil and will be sold in the market at a discounted price, he said.

Palm oil prices dropped by Rs 2 to Rs 63 and palm kernel oil to Rs 83 against Rs 85 last week. According to Thalath Mahmood, Director, COMA, arrivals of copra are low due to off-season in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Bharat N. Khona, former Board Member, COMA, hoped that corporate and upcountry buyers would venture into the market once the prices started coming down.



# Business Standard

## Companies eye market for farm solutions

### Investment in contract farming almost trebles in Maharashtra this year

With post-harvest losses due to poor infrastructure estimated at Rs 50,000 crore a year, India Inc's interest in agricultural commodities is growing. Companies are seeking to provide end-to-end solutions to farmers, like efficient handling and direct marketing.

Owing to the favourable conditions in this segment and the immense scope for investment in horticulture and processed food in the past year, companies have stepped up investment in this space in Maharashtra, specially in fruit and vegetables and large cash crop segments. In 2013-14, the state recorded a total investment of Rs 265.6 crore in this segment from companies including Mahindra & Mahindra, [Hindustan Unilever](#), Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals, [United Phosphorus](#) and Rallis India. In the previous year, investment was Rs 98 crore.

### EYEING RICH HARVEST

Companies are raising spends in agri sector in Maharashtra

Commodity	Area (ha)		Investment (₹ cr)	
	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14
Maize	5,000	30,000	6.05	38.47
Soya bean	33,300	53,580	2.30	11.55
Pulses	32,000	35,000	50.38	44.37
Cotton	4,135	10,000	17.13	66.09
Onion	1,700	2,000	4.16	27.92
Tomato	483	1,500	3.46	2.91
Potato	920	-	4.52	-
Grapes	200	500	6.41	11.10
Pomegranate	200	200	4.96	10.65
Sugarcane	1,200	1,200	8.02	37.76
E-content	-	-	0.87	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,138</b>	<b>134,580</b>	<b>97.89</b>	<b>265.58</b>

Source: KPMG

"Over 60 per cent of the goods sold in hypermarkets are processed. Therefore, the agri processing sector offers immense opportunity. Hence, we invite companies to participate with more aggression," said S K Goel, principal secretary, (agriculture and marketing).

Most companies offer seeds, fertilisers, advisories and other services, in addition to procurement. This helps farmers fetch more, without distress sales. Companies offer easy cash to farmers, in sowing and harvest seasons. During procurement, Mahindra & Mahindra offers a large portion (70 per cent) of the estimated prevailing market price to farmers.

After a marginal deduction of 11 per cent as administrative fee, the rest is shared with farmers. “We provide seeds, fertilisers, advisory services and market access,” said Ashok Sharma, chief executive (agri business).

The company, set to enter the branded fruit segment soon, is in contract farming of grapes in 200 hectares in Nashik. Its banana-ripening pilot project is underway in Delhi. It expects to expand this to Mumbai soon.

The price build up of unbranded unprocessed grocery (percentage of price)	
Particulars	Share in retail price (%)
Farmers	68
Kutcha arhatiyas	1
Pucca arhatiyas	1.7
Taxes and costs	6.8
Ex-mandi price	77.5
Transportation and losses	2.5
City wholesaler	2.5
Sub-wholesaler	2.5
Retailer margin	15
Customer price	100
Source : KPMG	

“Companies will spend money and avail better technology. The government is ready to extend all support, with a huge allocation of subsidy for the growth of agri processing,” said Siraj Hussain, secretary in the Union food processing ministry.

A report by global advisory firm KPMG showed farmers received 68 per cent of the price paid by consumers. Ashok Gulati, chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, too, pointed to this.

The KPMG report said 80 per cent of India’s 115 million farms were on plots of less than two hectares. One per cent of all farms had an area of 10 hectares, and these accounted for 15 per cent of the cultivated land.

Increased organised retail penetration and mega-food parks proposed by the government are encouraging processors to expand business. This would help improve produce handling and price realisations, and reduce waste.

## Tight supply, exports push up sesame seed price

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**Traders expect prices to rise to around Rs 5,000 per 20 kg amid demand pressure**

Heavy buying by [exporters](#) and increased local demand has pushed up natural [sesame seed prices](#) to Rs 3,700 per 20 kg. Market experts maintained that prices increased owing to tight supply conditions in both domestic and international market due to lower production.

As per market statistics, sesame seed prices have gained by more than 33 per cent to Rs 4,000 per 20 kg on last Wednesday, which is higher from Rs 3,000 per 20 kg a month ago. But after touching new high, demand in sesame seed has reduced and now price reached to Rs 3,700 per 20 kg. While hulled sesame seed premium quality is still ruling on Rs 3,960-4,000 per 20 kg and semi-premium hulled price is traded on Rs 3,800-3,850 per 20 kg.

In the international market, India's sesame seed is being quoted at \$2,700-2,800 a tonne.

"The only reason behind price rise is the shortage of supply against huge export demand. Exporters are buying heavily to fulfill their commitments. Moreover, domestic demand also good at this time," said Sagar Chag, director of Sagar International from Rajkot.

He noted that international supply was also dull, which may further push up the prices. Sesame seed crop in Pakistan is expected to be lower this time. Till September, sesame seed production was expected to be good in India but heavy rain at the end of September mainly in Gujarat has abolished all the expectation.

In its crop survey, the Shellac & Forest Products Export Promotion Council ([Shefexil](#), a trade body sponsored by the ministry of commerce) says production might fall by 11.7 per cent in 2013-14 to 253,000 tonnes, due to lower sowing area (down 5.8 per cent) and yield (down 6.2 per cent). However, traders believe that sesame seed production will not be more than 150,000 tonnes in India.

Traders maintained that production of Gujarat will be around 40,000 tonnes.

Manoj Sonpal of Sonpal Agri Export from Amreli, said, "As price has gone up in recent time South Korea has cancelled its tender for 5,100 tonnes a few days back. Last, tender for 8,000 tonnes was opened on October 30 this year."

He said that demand from Europe, Gulf countries and China is huge and India cannot match the supply. Moreover, domestic demand is also good which may pull the price in coming days.

According to traders, sesame seed price may touch Rs 5,000 per 20 kg within next one month.

By end of this month South Korea's 4,300 tonne tender will announce and as per the traders only Indian bidders will participate in it. This may pull up sesame seed price more in coming days.

Due to lower production, arrival of sesame seed is very limited in Gujarat and across the country. About 4,000-5,000 bags sesame seed arrives every day in Gujarat and the country's arrival reported about 10,000-11,000 bags a day.

# WB potato seed price sees steep rise on poor supply from Punjab

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**In the last one month potato seed prices have more than doubled from nearly Rs 17 per kg to Rs 50 per kg**



Potato seed prices in [West Bengal](#) are high like never before.

While the state government has been able to reign in high potato prices, the seed prices have increased abysmally on account of demand supply mismatch in Punjab.

In the last one month potato seed prices have more than doubled from nearly Rs 17 per kg to Rs 50 per kg.

Of the total seed requirement of 8,00,000 tonne in West Bengal, about 50% are from Punjab. This year, with most of the locally grown [potato seeds](#) being destroyed by floods, the requirement of seeds from Punjab has gone up to nearly 70%.

“This year, prices of potato seeds are extremely high. Moreover, the seeds which are imported from Punjab are of very inferior quality, mostly under-sized tubers,” said Pranab Chatterjee, professor at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya.

In addition, higher cost of fertilizers and labourers has added to the overall cost of potato cultivation. Thus cultivation of potato over one bigha (about 0.4 hectare) this year could cost around Rs 18,500, which yields about four tonne potatoes. In general, the cost of production of four tonne potato is close to Rs 12,000.

This year, the cost of labour has gone up from Rs 4,000 to Rs 6,000, that of fertilizer from about Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500 and that of seeds from nearly Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 (for producing four tonne potato).

Thus, if the potato prices crashes after the arrival of new crops in late December, most of the farmers would have to sell their produce at a loss.

“If at the farm level, potato prices fall below Rs 7-8 per kg, it will be a loss for the farmer,” said Chatterjee.

Recently, the state government has decided provide potato seeds at Rs 18 per kg, to 30,000 farmers to solve the crisis.

Meanwhile, potato prices in retail market continue to hover between Rs 15-17 per kg. Recently, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee removed partial ban on transport of potatoes to Orissa. The state government has decided that one lakh tonne potatoes would be exported to Orissa from [West Midnapore](#) district.

West Bengal produces nearly 100 lakh tonne potato every year. Of this, only 55 lakh tonne is domestically consumed. The rest has to be exported.

#### Cost of 4 tonne potato production (Rs)

	2012-13	2013-14
Fertilizer	375	625
Labourers	1,000	1,500
Seeds	1,250	2,500
Total	2,625	4,625
<i>Source: Informal estimates</i>		

## Chana trades higher by 0.2% on spot demand

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However, expectations of higher output this season on favourable weather for sowing, restricted the gains



[Chana prices](#) traded higher by 0.16% to Rs 3,071 per quintal in futures market today as speculators enlarged positions, supported by an improvements in demand in the spot market.

However, expectations of higher output this season on favourable weather for sowing, restricted the gains.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), chana for delivery in December rose by Rs 5, or 0.16%, to Rs 3,071 per quintal with an open interest of 80,590 lots.

Similarly, commodity for delivery in January traded higher by Rs 3, or 0.10%, to Rs 3,157 per quintal in 54,730 lots.

Traders said speculators enlarged their positions, supported by an improvement in demand in the spot market, mainly helped chana prices to trade higher at futures trade.

Some enquiries from dal mills further fuelled the uptrend, they said.

# Refined soya up 0.3% on good spot demand

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## Oil for delivery in January edged up by 0.21%

[Refined soya oil](#) prices gained 0.36% to Rs 724.40 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions, driven by good demand in the spot market in view of the ongoing marriage season.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), refined soya oil for delivery in December rose by 2.60, or 0.36%, to Rs 724.40 per 10 kg with an open interest of

79,840 lots.

Similarly, oil for delivery in January edged up by Rs 1.50, or 0.21%, to Rs 725.10 per 10 kg in 1,09,250 lots.

Analysts said fresh positions built up by speculators driven by good demand in spot market due to ongoing marriage season mainly led to rise in refined soya oil prices at futures trade.

# Sugar rises by 0.4% as spot demand picks up

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## However, ample supplies from mills into the physical market limited the gains

[Sugar prices](#) rose by 0.35% to Rs 2,841 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators enlarged their positions driven by pick up in spot markets demand.

However, ample supplies from mills into the physical market limited the gains.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), sugar for delivery in December rose by Rs 10, or 0.35%, to Rs 2,841 per quintal with an open interest of 12,030 lots.

The sweetener for delivery in January also moved up by Rs 9, or 0.32%, to Rs 2,845 per quintal in 21,040 lots.

Analysts attributed the rise in sugar prices at futures trade to increased buying by speculators following pick up in demand in the spot market due to ongoing marriage season.

## Crude palm oil remains weak on subdued demand

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**Speculators reduced holdings due to subdued demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position**



[Crude palm oil](#) remained weak for the third straight session and shed 0.11% to Rs 566.70 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators reduced holdings on subdued demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in December shed 60 paise, or 0.11%, to Rs 566.70 per 10 kg in business turnover of 62 lots.

Similarly, oil for delivery in November traded marginally lower by 20 paise, or 0.04%, to Rs 565.70 per 10 kg in 12 lots.

Analysts said speculators reduced holdings due to subdued demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position which mainly helped crude palm oil [prices](#) to trade lower at futures trade.

## Potato weakens by 0.2% on increased supply

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**Speculators offloaded positions, triggered by increased supplies from producing regions**

[Potato prices](#) weakened by 0.20% to Rs 861 per quintal in futures market today as speculators offloaded positions, triggered by increased supplies from producing regions.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in far-month April weakened by Rs 1.70, or 0.20%, to Rs 861 per quintal in a business turnover of 8 lots.



Potato for delivery in March also traded lower by Rs 1.70, or 0.19%, to Rs 881.20 per quintal in 6 lots.

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

## Cardamom down 0.2% on sluggish demand

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**Adequate stocks availability in the physical market on increased arrivals from producing belt also influenced cardamom**



[Cardamom](#) futures extended losses for the third straight day by losing 0.24% to Rs 716 per kg in futures trade today as speculators trimmed positions, tracking a weak trend at spot market on sluggish demand.

Adequate stocks availability in the physical market on increased arrivals from producing belt also influenced cardamom.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in December fell further by Rs 1.70, or 0.24%, to Rs 716 per kg in business turnover of 127 lots.

Similarly, spice for delivery in January traded marginally lower by 60 paise, or 0.08%, to Rs 743.10 per kg in 20 lots.

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