

Farmers pin their hopes on northeast monsoon

Drought-hit farmers, let down by the southwest monsoon, are now looking to the northeast monsoon to help them resume their agricultural operations.

After an early promise of rain during the last week of August, farmers started direct sowing in about 28,000 hectares in rain-fed areas. However, an unusually long dry spell in September has caused anxiety.

“The field remains in the same state like it was when I sowed the seeds last month,” complains U.Balakrishnan, an octogenarian farmer in Kumariyendal near here.

The seeds have not had a chance to sprout as there was no rain in September, he points out gloomily. He was hoping for a brief spell of rain during the first week of this month before the onset of the northeast monsoon to trigger germination. The Vayalur and Panaiyur areas face a similar predicament.

This year, the district administration has made arrangements for seed drill sowing in about 10,000 hectares so that farmers can reap the benefits of SRI.

Nabard scheme for storage of farm commodities

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has announced a scheme with a corpus of Rs.5,000 crore for providing loans to the public and private sector to meet the growing demand of storage capacity of agricultural commodities in the country.

Termed ‘Nabard Warehousing Scheme (NWS) 2013-14’, assistance will be given for construction of warehouses, silos, cold storages and cold chain infrastructure to state governments, state government undertakings, Special Purpose Vehicles set up under PPP mode, cooperatives, federations, cooperative federations, APMCs, state level boards, apex marketing boards, panchayats, private companies and private entrepreneurs.

Nabard Chief General Manager, Tamil Nadu Regional Office, Lalitha Venkatesan said Tamil Nadu has a storage gap of 10 lakh tonnes for warehouses and 1.50 lakh tonnes for cold storage.

The gap is found to be high in the districts of Ariyalur, Dharmapuri, Kanyakumari, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Theni, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur, Tiruvarur, Vellore, Villupuram and Virudhunagar.

During the last two year, Nabard had sanctioned loan assistance of Rs.684 crore for creation of 7.77 lakh tonnes capacity of warehouse and cold storage infrastructure in the State through various State government departments and corporation.

Registration must for shrimp farmers

Shrimp farmers are required to register under the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005. According to a Department of Fisheries release, punitive action would be taken against the farms functioning without registration. Violation may attract an imprisonment of up to three years or a fine of Rs.1 lakh or both.

The registration under the Act is valid for five years. Farms are required to renew their registration two months prior to the expiry. Farmers are requested to apply in form III to the district-level committee coordinator.

The CAA is the sole authority to grant permission to culture SPF L.Vannamei. Those engaged in prawn culture and seeking to culture L.Vannamei are required to apply for special permission. Separate forms could be downloaded from www.caa.gov.in

Further, aquafarms registered for L.Vannamei culture are mandated to procure seeds only from registered hatcheries. A list of authorised hatcheries is available on the CAA website. If the hatcheries were found to have sold L.Vannamei seeds to unregistered farms, their licence to import broodstock would be cancelled. Prawn farmers are also required to put in place accredited biosecurity measures and effluent treatment system (ETS) at the farms.

VC: e-SAP evokes good response from farmers

'Over 30,000 have so far benefited from the new technology'



B.V. Patil, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences, addressing a press conference in Raichur on Thursday.— PHOTO: SANTOSH SAGAR

Comprehensive information about e-Solution Against Agricultural Pests (e-SAP), an innovative and eco-friendly technology developed by the University of Agricultural Sciences, will be provided to farmers at the three-day Krishi Mela, scheduled to begin from October 5, B.V. Patil, Vice-Chancellor of the university, has said. The e-SAP has evoked good response as over 30,000 farmers across six districts under the varsity's jurisdiction have benefited from it so far, he added.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Dr. Patil said that the e-SAP had helped field extension workers and farmers in identifying the pest problems and getting instant remedies through a special handy device. The technology was being implemented in fields

cultivated with cotton, paddy, red gram, bengal gram, sunflower, groundnut, chilli, sugarcane, Brinjal, tomato and others. Over 30,000 farmers in all six districts of Hyderabad Karnataka region were under the university's jurisdiction, he said.

Allocation

Dr. Patil said that reduced budgetary allocation for the university had not affected agricultural research work. "The government reduced the budgetary allocation for planned expenditure from Rs. 31 crore to Rs. 25 crore and for non-plan expenditure from Rs. 36 crore to Rs. 29 crore.

The in-charge Ministers of all the six districts, along with elected representatives, will be writing to the Chief Minister seeking an increase in the allocation. However, reduced budgetary allocations has not hampered the research work," he said.

Research

Dr. Patil said that Union government had released Rs. 15 crore to the university under National Agricultural Development Scheme and another Rs. 6.5 crore under National Food Security Mission for the proposed research on eco-friendly biological control of major pests, as part of integrated pest management.

Krishi Mela

Dr. Patil said that Krishi Mela-2013 would be inaugurated by Minister for Medical Education and in-charge of the district Sharan Prakash Patil, and Minister of State for Agriculture (independent charge) Krishna Byre Gowda would attend the concluding the session. About 50,000 farmers from the six districts of Hyderabad Karnataka region, comprising Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bellary, Koppal and Yadgir, were expected to visit the three-day event.

Mini-melas

Apart from the main event at Raichur, mini-krishi Melas would be organised in each of the six districts during October, November and December, so that new technologies in farming sector reached the farmers.

The Vice-Chancellor said that more information would be provided to farmers about the new variety of seed developed by the university during the Krishi Mela. "The university has developed a new variety of paddy seed, SIRI-1253, which yields about 65 to 70 quintals a hectare and is resistant to Brown Plant Hopper. It is suitable for Tungabhadra command area. It can be cultivated during both kharif and rabi seasons," he said.

Information pertaining to the benefits of direct seeding of paddy, instead of transplantation, precision farming, integrated farming system, watershed development technology, better irrigation methods, mechanised paddy trans-planter, laser levelling, biocontrol agents, biofuel plants, animal energy and others would be provided to farmers at the Krishi Mela, he said.

Felicitation

Two farmers, a man and a woman, each from the six districts, who had achieved noteworthy success in agriculture and allied fields, would be felicitated and conferred Shreshtha Krishika (man) and Shreshtha Krishimahile (woman), he said.

Expansion Director K.P. Vishwanath, research director B.S. Janagowdar, Reader S.K. Meti and others were present.

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- Minister for Medical Education to inaugurate Krishi Mela on October 5*
 - Varsity has developed a new high-yielding variety of paddy seed*
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A beacon of hope for farmers broken by an apathetic State



Agriculturalist-cum-rural scientist Mangal Singh invented the Mangal Turbine in 1987. Photo: Special Arrangement

Mangal Singh (66) is an inspiration for farmers and rural scientists across India. In fact, he could save the government millions of litres of diesel a year, or equivalent amount of electricity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

An agriculturalist-cum-rural scientist, he invented the Mangal Turbine (MT) in 1987 based on practical knowledge. The low-cost turbine needs no fuel to operate and harnesses the energy of flowing water to lift water for irrigation. It now finds mention in Class 10 textbooks in Madhya Pradesh and its patent is registered in the Limca Book of Records. It also won him the “National Innovative Farmer” award.

However, despite commendations from highly placed scientists and development officials, Mr. Singh neither received the recognition he deserved nor had his invention promoted by the State. While reputed international agencies merely used him for publicity, at home his failure to pay “commissions” meant he was harassed by officials, his workshop and projects were jeopardised, and their funding stalled. The government, claiming that he was under government debt, auctioned off his ancestral land for Re. 1. The allegation was later proved false by a high-level report of the Union Rural Development Ministry.

A heartbroken man today, Mr. Singh believes he is a victim of a “serial conspiracy” by “corrupt” government officials and agencies. His latest ordeal has brought him to the Allahabad High Court. With a bag full of pictures and land records, some dating back to 1915, he travelled 50 km from his village — Bhailoni Lodh in the impoverished Lalitpur district — to Jhansi, before making the journey here.

Mr. Singh alleges that the Lalitpur administration received bribes from the “mafia” to permit the construction of a petrol pump on his ancestral land. There is a dispute over the three-acre plot among his brothers, and several cases of partition are pending in various courts. Earlier

this month, when he came to know about the petrol pump, he wrote to the District Magistrate, the Chief Secretary and the Petroleum Ministry, but with little result.

“I am a victim of a serial conspiracy by officials because I opposed corruption. The mafia can pay any amount to get licence on farmers’ land. I am just a farmer. How can anyone get permission to make a petrol pump on land that is disputed without paying bribes” he asks. In a State where corruption permeates deep into the administrative set-up, Mr. Singh’s grievance may seem commonplace. But his is a tale of grave injustice. He was born into the Lodhi caste, which claims Rajput ancestry but whose people are practising peasants. After completing school, he dropped out, partly due to financial limitations and partly because of he was involved in the socialist movement.

Over the years, Mr. Singh gained the image of an anti-corruption crusader. He exposed irregularities in the gram panchayat system, illustrated in the book, *Panchayati Raj and Local Governance*, and raised voice against depletion of natural resources such as canals and hills in the Bundelkhand region by the mafia, who enjoy political and administrative patronage. He has even filed a PIL against the “construction lobby.”

“Any young IAS is not allowed to stay here for more than 2-3 months. Senior officials, who are close to retirement, bribe the mafias and get hefty posts and then assist them,” he says. Terming the village *pradhans* (chiefs) “contractors,” he says: “There is a class of touts that is being created. Even the meetings of the panchayats are *farzi* [fake].”

Earlier, Mr. Singh adds, disputes were easily resolved at the village level. But now villagers have to approach the High Court and sometimes the Supreme Court, as he had to. Mr. Singh has also flayed the cleverly crafted system in the State of appointing illiterate women, primarily belonging to the Scheduled Castes, as *pradhans*. “Fake signatures are obtained from them on withdrawal slips and then funds are misappropriated.”

However, all his activism has come at a price. Mr. Singh has failed to acquire a passport even after 16 years of applying for it. His first application in 1997 was rejected due to an “adverse report” by the police. The same again happened in 2003. He was told that since he held government debt he was “not entitled.” However, Mr. Singh has never had any case against him or any debt. In fact, “there is no provision of considering debt while acquiring passport,” he says.

Touched by his misery, the former Kerala Chief Minister, the late P.V.K. Nair, intervened and wrote to the police that “the only reason for sending adverse report is that Mr. Singh refuse(d) to give bribe to the official concerned.”

Nothing came out of it or the recommendations by other highly placed persons.

This was not the end of the harassment he had to face. Many a time, carcasses have been dumped outside his door. Only after he wrote to the National Human Rights Commission, did the administration remove them.

Mr. Singh, however, remains resolute. He continues his work, travelling across States helping farmers install the turbine he invented and teaching them rural methods of invention.

Egg rate

The National Egg Coordination Committee egg rate was Rs. 3.36 on Thursday.

Perambalur farmers divided on dedicated cane area for mills

Public hearing on division of sugarcane area among three sugar mills held as per High Court directive

Participants at a public hearing on division of area under sugarcane among three sugar mills in Perambalur on Thursday.

A public hearing here on division of area under sugarcane among three sugar mills, two of them in the public sector, evoked mixed opinion from farmers on Thursday.

While many insisted on staying with public sector sugar mills at Eraiyyur and Mohanur, a section wanted to opt for the private mill at Udumbiyam. The hearing was conducted as per the direction of the Madras High Court.

Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam State secretary Raja Chidambaram deplored the steep fall in farmers' share in the Eraiyyur sugar mill and favoured supply of sugarcane to public sector mills.

He pointed out that the farmers' share in the public sector mill, which stood at 23 per cent in 1978, had come down to 5.7 per cent now. This meant that the farmer was getting increasingly devalued.

Farmers, now supplying their produce to public sector mills, were confident that they would get additional price for sugarcane supplied from 2004-05 to 2008-09, as per a court directive. A section of farmers from Vengalam area wanted "free mill" choice, which would enable supply to the mill of their choice. However, farmers around Udumbiyam favoured the private mill.

A.K. Rajendran, president, Tamil Nadu Sugarcane Farmers' Association, A. Venugopal, president of the district unit, and N. Chelladurai, district secretary, said it would be easier for farmers to reach Eraiyyur near Perambalur.

The meeting was convened by Mahesan Kasirajan, Director, Sugar, in the presence of Darez Ahamed, District Collector. The Madras High Court, in its order of June 8, 2010, had directed the officials to conduct a public hearing on division of sugarcane area, by inviting sugarcane farmers and representatives of farmers' associations.

Mr. Kasirajan assured farmers that their views would be conveyed to the government for appropriate action. A committee is likely to visit Perambalur district for finalising the area for three sugar mills – Perambalur Sugar Mill, Eraiyyur, Salem Cooperative Sugar Mill, Moganur, and Dhanalakshmi Sugar Mill at Udumbiyam.

Water level

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Thursday stood at 103.90 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 515.86 cusecs and 1,504.75 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 55.84 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 67 cusecs and 325 cusecs was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 23.15 feet, 61.50 feet in Perunchani, 9.38 feet in Chittar I, 9.48 feet in Chittar II and 33.96 feet in Mambazhathuraiyaru dam.

Water level in Periyar dam was 123.40 feet with an inflow of 446 cusecs and discharge of 1372 cusecs. The level in Vaigai dam was 56.33 feet with an inflow of 839 cusecs and discharge of 1860 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 6024 mcft.

Paddy transplanting

MECHANISED PADDY TRANSPLANTATION DEMO

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, organised a demonstration of mechanised paddy transplantation at Kurichilakkode Ekkuzhi paddy field near Kodanad. The programme was held in association with the Kodanad Padasekhara Samity. Saju Paul, MLA, inaugurated the programme. The machine can transplant paddy in one acre in one hour. It requires two workers for transplanting paddy. The Kendra will extend technical and financial support for mechanised weeding and harvesting of paddy using combine harvester.

Officials expect bumper paddy procurement

The district administration plans to purchase 1.5 lakh metric tonne of kharif paddy from farmers

With an expectation of a bumper paddy harvest this kharif season owing to abundant rain and increase in the acreage, the district administration is mulling options for good paddy procurement.

District Collector T. Chiranjeevulu on Thursday convened a review meeting to take opinions of all the stake holders to draw effective measures for the procurement season. Speaking at the meeting, he said that the paddy acreage in the district had increased to 1.44 lakh hectares this kharif season from the 80,000 hectares last year and they were pinning hopes for a production of 7 lakh metric tonne of paddy this kharif season when compared to the 3 lakh metric tonne last year.

More procurement centres to be set up

The district administration is expecting that about 6 lakh metric tonne of rice would come to the market against the previous year's 2.53 lakh metric tonne. Reviewing the arrangements for the procurement season, the Collector said they have planned to increase the number of paddy procurement centres to 161 this year in comparison to the last season's 54 and are expecting to purchase 1.5 lakh metric tonne of paddy when compared to the previous year's 37,000 tonne.

The Collector said three government agencies —Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS), Civil Supplies Department and Indira Kanthi Patham—will set up 43, 15 and 103 procurement centres respectively across the district, adding that the Civil Supplies Department has set a procurement target of 2 lakh metric tonnes which will be purchased

from the rice millers. He also instructed the authorities to procure more gunny bags as the district has only 23.23 lakh bags against the required 37.5 lakh. Meanwhile, the storage of the yet-to-be-procured paddy has become a concern for the officials.

At present, the 23 Central Ware Housing Corporation godowns in the district, with storage capacity of 5.79 lakh metric tonne has got already about 4 lakh metric tonnes rice stored.

Joint Collector M. Hari Jawaharlal instructed the officials to shift the stored rice to the empty godowns in other States with immediate effect, making room for this year's procurement.

Performance review everyday

The district administration also asked the cluster resource persons of the IKP to help the farmers bring the produce to the procurement centres, with the desired moisture content level.

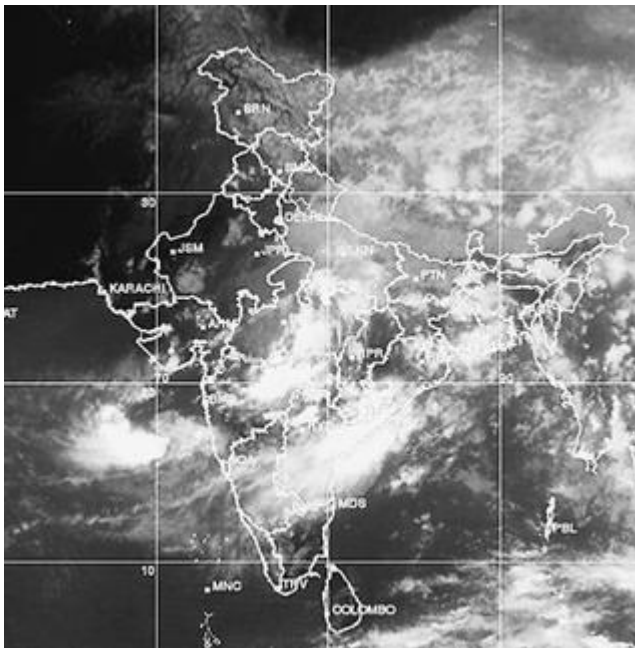
“The progress of paddy procurement will be reviewed every day with all the concerned department heads and the Collector will assess the performance once in a week,” said

Mr. Jawaharlal.

Later, Mr. Chiranjeevulu informed that Civil Supplies Corporation Vice-Chairman and Managing Director

V. Anil Kumar would visit the district in a couple of days and announce the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on October 03rd.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	34	24	0	4
New Delhi (Sfd)	35	23	0	4
Chandigarh	33	24	4	5
Hissar	32	23	4	4
Bhuntar	30	14	0	0
Shimla	22	13	24	61
Jammu	32	20	50	50
Srinagar	29	13	0	0

Amritsar	33	23	0	0
Patiala	34	24	0	0
Jaipur	31	24	tr	tr
Udaipur	31	23	0	1
Allahabad	30	25	7	11
Lucknow	33	21	6	6
Varanasi	30	25	10	14
Dehradun	31	21	3	16
Agartala	36	24	56	57
Ahmedabad	34	25	2	24
Bangalore	28	20	0	tr
Bhubaneshwar	31	25	tr	39
Bhopal	29	23	2	3
Chennai	35	26	0	12
Guwahati	34	25	0	1
Hyderabad	31	21	7	7
Kolkata	33	26	0	17
Mumbai	31	26	0	0
Nagpur	31	23	72	83
Patna	32	25	1	1
Pune	31	21	0	0
Thiruvananthapuram	31	24	0	14
Imphal	31	21	0	0
Shillong	26	17	0	5

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (tr-trace) and total rainfall in mm since 1st October.

MAINLY DRY WEATHER

The withdrawal line of South-west monsoon continues to pass through Kalpa, Hissar, Jodhpur and Nalia.

Rainfall: Rain/thundershowers have occurred at a few places over east Uttar Pradesh and at isolated places over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm. are: (2 cm. and above) HIMACHAL PRADESH: Rajgarh 6 and Baijnath and Shimla 2 each, JAMMU AND KASHMIR: Jammu 5 and Katra 3, EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Kanpur 10, Unnao 9, Purwa 7, Akbarpur 5, Azamgarh, Rasoolabad and Ankinghat 4 each, Naraini and Pratapgarh 3 each and Baberu and Malihabad 2 each, WEST UTTAR PRADESH: Hamirpur, Orai and Mauranipur 3 each and Rath and Mahoba 2 each and UTTARAKHAND: Uttarkashi 3 and Almora 3.

MAXIMUM TEMPURTURE: The maximum temperature changed little over the region. They were above normal in Jammu and Kashmir, appreciably below normal in east Rajasthan, below normal in east Uttar Pradesh and normal in rest of the region. The highest maximum temperature in the region was 37.3°C recorded at Jaisalmer (Rajasthan).

MANIMUM TEMPURTURE: The minimum temperature changed little over the region. They were markedly above normal in Punjab, appreciably above normal in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, above normal in Himachal Pradesh west Uttar Pradesh and normal in rest of the region. The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was 18.6°C recorded at Fatehgarh (Uttar Pradesh).

FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 5th OCTOBER

2013 :Rain/thundershowers would occur at many places over east-Uttar Pradesh and southeast parts of west-Uttar Pradesh. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over rest of the region outside west Rajasthan where it will be mainly dry.

HEAVY RAINFALL WARNING: Heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places over east Uttar Pradesh and southeast parts of west-Uttar Pradesh during next 48 hours.
FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 5th OCTOBER 2013: Partly cloudy sky. Very light rain/thundershowers could occur in some areas.



Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 0
 Humidity: 89
 Wind: normal

Friday, Oct 4

Max Min

36° | 27°

Sunrise: 05:58
 Sunset: 05:57
 Barometer: 1007.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Saturday, Oct 5

Max Min

36° | 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday
Oct 6



34° | 27°

Partly Cloudy

Monday
Oct 7



34° | 27°

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday
Oct 8



31° | 25°

Overcast

Wednesday
Oct 9



31° | 26°

Overcast

Thursday
Oct 10



32° | 27°

Overcast

New agriculture warehousing policy on the anvil

The state government is working on a new agriculture warehousing policy for the development of agricultural warehousing facilities under public-private partnership (PPP) model in the state.

The government has constituted a committee to draft the policy and the work has begun. The state government's plan to create an additional 50 lakh million tonnes of warehousing capacity in the next four years is being seen as the part of the new policy.

"The new policy will provide a lot of incentives to private players willing to invest in warehousing facilities. The policy will focus on not only warehousing facilities but also on cold storage and cold chain requirement in the state," according to a senior official of the Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation.

Escalation in the cost of the land has become a severe impediment for developing modern warehousing facilities. The policy will have a transparent bidding process and will allow private participators in getting allotment of cheaper lands and other benefits, he said.

It is estimated that about Rs 50,000 crore is lost annually due to post-harvest loss, a major slice of it due to inadequate storage and transportation facilities. Presently, the state has about 154 warehouses with 25,32,059 MTs of warehousing storage capacity. Actually the state needs 133 lakh tonnes of storage space for foodgrains alone.

With the Food Security Bill coming into force, the demand for modern warehousing facilities has increased. The new policy will play a vital role in increasing participation of private parties in warehousing construction, he said.

The cold storage requirement in the state is about 23.24 lakh mt but presently it has a capacity of 9.01 lakh mt only leaving a gap of 14.23 lakh MT.

Keeping in view the shortage of warehousing infrastructure (including cold storage) for agricultural commodities, the Centre has increased the allocation to Rs 5,000 crore from Rs 2,000 crore in 2011-12, the official said.

The projects of cold storages, cold room or industrial projects for preservation, storage or processing of agricultural, horticultural, dairy, poultry, aquatic and marine produce and meat are being granted project import status with concessional Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 5%. The truck refrigeration units and refrigeration motor vehicle have been fully exempted from BCD.

Onion prices soar at Netaji Market

Onion prices increased from Rs 25 to Rs 40 at the Netaji Market on Thursday due to shortage of supply | File photo

Onion prices increased from Rs 25 to Rs 40 at the Netaji Market here on Thursday due to shortage of supply.

President of the Vellore Town Netaji Market Vegetable Sellers Association Balu said that the market had been receiving an average of three loads of onion everyday weighing around 45 tonnes.



However, these loads of onions could not be sold on the spot as they were fresh and had to be dried.

Therefore the existing stock had to be sold, Balu said and added that the price had gone up as the stock had reduced. He, however, said that fresh stock of onions was expected in 10 days' time and would be brought to the market for sale in a month during when the prices would also crash.

As on Thursday, the first grade onions from Nasik and Maharashtra were priced around Rs 55, while the second grade onions from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka were priced around Rs 40.

However, there was no change in the price of sambar onions (small onions), which were priced around Rs 60.

Business Standard

Cardamom up 1.2% on rising spot demand



[Cardamom prices](#) gained 1.25% to Rs 739.90 per kg in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions, driven by rising demand in the spot market against limited arrivals from producing regions.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in October gained Rs 9.10, or 1.25%, to Rs 739.90 per kg in business turnover of 401 lots.

Market analysts said speculators enlarged their positions, driven by rising demand in the spot market against limited arrivals from producing regions, mainly led to rise in cardamom prices at futures trade.

Crude palm oil down 0.9% on global cues



Tracking a weak global trend, [crude palm oil](#) prices fell by 0.99% to Rs 518.70 per 10 kg in futures market today as speculators offloaded their positions.

Sentiments also turned bearish after palm oil dropped for the second day in global markets on speculation that increasing output from Malaysia, the world's second-largest producer, will add to stockpiles.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in October declined by Rs 5.20, or 0.99%, to Rs 518.70 per 10 kg in business turnover of 137 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in November traded lower by Rs 4.90, or 0.95% to Rs 513.10 per 10 kg in 52 lots.

Analysts said speculators offloaded their positions in tandem with a weak global trend, that mainly kept pressure on crude palm oil prices at futures trade.

Meanwhile, palm oil for December delivery fell 1% to \$716 a tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives.

Potato down 0.1% on increased supply



In thin trade, [potato](#) prices declined by 0.13% to Rs 830 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators offloaded their positions on lower demand in the spot market.

Increased supplies from producing regions also put pressure on potato.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in March traded lower by Rs 1.10, or 0.13%, to Rs 830 per quintal in business turnover of 6 lots.

Market analysts said increased supplies from producing regions against lower demand in the spot market mainly led to decline in potato prices at futures trade.

Refined soya down 1.3% on sluggish demand



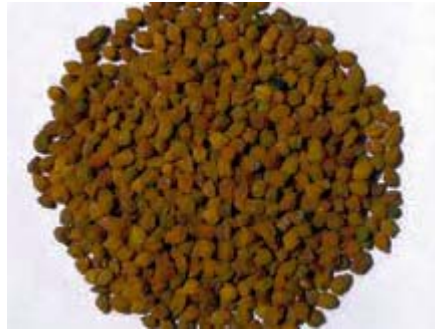
[Refined soya oil](#) prices moved down by 1.33% to Rs 678.15 per 10 kg in futures trading today as speculators reduced their holdings due to sluggish demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), refined soya for delivery in November fell by Rs 9.15, or 1.33%, to Rs 678.15 per 10 kg with an open interest of 64940 lots.

Similarly, oil for delivery in October declined by Rs 3.95, or 0.57% to Rs 690.35 per 10 kg in 57040 lots.

Analysts said speculators reduced their positions on the back of sluggish demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position mainly kept pressure on refined soya oil prices at futures trade.

Chana up 1.2% on strong demand



[Chana](#) prices climbed by 1.24% to Rs 3,018 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators enlarged their positions, supported by strong demand in the spot market.

At the National Commodity Derivatives Exchange, chana for delivery in November climbed by Rs 367, or 1.24% to Rs 3018 per quintal with an open interest of 69690 lots.

In a similar fashion, the commodity for delivery in October gained Rs 29, or 1%, to Rs 2922 per quintal in 103360 lots.

Market analysts said speculators enlarged their positions, supported by strong demand in the spot market, that mainly pushed up chana prices at futures trade.

Vegetable price rises ahead of festive season



Vegetable prices have risen around 150 per cent in the last two weeks due to a sudden spurt in stockists demand ahead of the festival season.

The price of export quality lady's finger, for example, shot up 150 per cent in two weeks to close on Thursday at Rs 40 a kg against Rs 16 a kg on September 16 in the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), Vashi, near Mumbai. The medium quality of lady's finger for domestic consumption was quoted at Rs 30-35 a kg against Rs 12 - 15 a kg a fortnight ago.

Vegetable price rise assumes significance as it helps increase primary food inflation and also adds to the wholesale price index as indicated by the ministry of finance recently. The ministry attributed the recent rise in food inflation to a significant 78 per cent increase in [vegetables](#) prices.

“The last leg of this season’s rainfalls has left very high moisture in the field affecting, thereby, harvesting of standing crop in major growing areas including Nashik, Pune, Jalna, etc. Since these regions contribute 70 per cent of Vashi APMC’s total normal arrival of around 500 vehicles (average 9 tonnes each), farmers failed to harvest the standing crop leading to supply squeeze,” said Avinash Patil, deputy secretary and head vegetable section, Vashi APMC.

Total vegetable supply into Vashi APMC, therefore, has declined from the normal 700-750 vehicles in the peak harvesting of this time around to 502 vehicles on Thursday. Two weeks ago, total supply was recorded at 600 vehicles.

The second important issue is the total halt of supply from Gujarat. Around 15 per cent of vegetable supply comes from Gujarat where fields have been flooded due to the recent spell of heavy rainfall.

“Instead of we receive supplies from Gujarat, we are supplying to them currently. So, demand has increased without proportionate supply increase. Hence, the price of vegetables has risen sharply,” said Patil.

Normally, the retail consumer demand of vegetables upsurge during the inauspicious 15-day period of “Pitri Paksha” and continues throughout the season. Being the lean farm gate

COOKING HOT

Particulars	Price (₹/ kg)		% change
	Sep 16	Oct 3	
Lady's finger	16-22	40-45	150
French beans	20-32	50-70	150
Brinjal	14-20	28-34	100
Coriander *	30-50	60-70	100
Methi**	80-100	150-200	87
Cauliflower	12-14	20-24	67
Capsicum	16-22	24-30	50
Green peas	50-80	70-150	40
Cucumber	10-16	12-14	20
Tomato	18-23	14-18	-22

*10 bunches; **10 bundle; % change from low prices

Source: APMC, Vashi,

supply, the availability remains tight throughout this one-month period. In a significant move, exporters have started procuring directly from farmers of the export quality products now instead of lifting of the desired quantity from APMC. Hence, overall supply remained lower to mandis not only now

but also for future as the quantity not contracted by exporters or rejected by them would be supplied to the APMC, said Ramesh Hiwale, a Vashi based trader.

Considering between 15 and 20 per cent wastage in major vegetables, the price should have been much lower for consumers than they currently get. Anyway, vegetable prices are expected to come down in the next 10 days with restoration of normal supply from Gujarat and hinterland of Maharashtra, said Patil.

World food prices drop to lowest in 3 years



World food prices fell for a fifth month in September to the lowest level in three years, with grain prices sliding as production of corn and rice is expected to exceed demand.

An index of 55 food items tracked by the [FAO](#) fell to 199.1 points from a revised 201.4 in August, the Rome-based United Nations agency wrote in an online report today. The gauge is down from a record 237.9 points in February 2011 and at the lowest level since September 2010.

The decline in food prices was driven by a 6.1 per cent drop for grains, as all other components of the index rose, led by sugar, the FAO said. Global corn production will jump to 943.2 million tonnes (mt) in 2013-14 from 862.9 mt in the previous period, the International Grains Council forecast last week.

"The sharp decline in September follows an already sizable drop registered in the previous two months, reflecting a generally favorable supply outlook, particularly for maize and rice," the FAO said, using another name for corn.

The FAO's grain price index fell to 197.7 points last month after sliding 7.5 per cent to 210.6 in August, slipping to the lowest level since August 2010.

In a separate report, the FAO cut its outlook for 2013 world grain production by 3.1 mt to 2.49 billion tonnes on a reduced outlook for wheat output, still rising 7.7 per cent from 2.31 billion tonnes in 2012. The wheat outlook was lowered by 5.2 mt to 704.6 mt.

International wheat prices were mostly unchanged from August on rising demand and a reduced outlook for harvests in Southern Hemisphere growers, according to the FAO.

Sugar

The FAO's sugar index rose 1.8 per cent to 246 points, after unfavorable weather hampered

harvesting in the center-south region of Brazil, the world's largest producer of the sweetener. Rising demand in India due to festive seasons provided short-term price support, the UN agency wrote.

An index of meat prices advanced 0.9 per cent to 175.7 points, while the FAO's gauge for cooking oils and fats added 0.4 per cent to 186.3 points. The dairy price index gained 0.7 per cent last month to 240.7.

The global food-import bill will probably be stable this year at \$1.094 trillion as cheaper sugar and cooking oil make up for rising prices of dairy, fish and meat, the FAO predicted in June.

Rains damage Rs 700 cr worth of crops in Gujarat



Devastating rains in parts of [Gujarat](#) during the past fortnight has wrecked havoc in the state. According to the initial estimates, the [flooding](#) of rivers and heavy rainfall has caused damage to the [agriculture](#) crop to the tune of Rs 700 crore in the state.

Most affected crops include pulses, cereals, vegetables, [cotton](#) and [groundnut](#), which were either ready for harvest or in flowering stage.

“As per the preliminary estimates, the damage to overall agriculture including crops, vegetables and horticulture is around Rs 700 crore. We do not rule out impact to groundnut and cotton crops. But the region-specific nature of rains has restricted the impact to these crops,” said Rajkumar, principal secretary - agriculture & co-operation, government of Gujarat.

According to farmer sources, cotton, pulses, maize and oilseeds were adversely affected in the central Gujarat region. Out of the total 26 million hectares of area covered under cotton in Gujarat, around 600,000 hectares fall under the central and south Gujarat regions, which was the worst affected in the recent spell of rains.

Farmers informed that thundershowers with heavy winds had damaged flowering in cotton and other vegetable. Many believed that water logged fields would spoil the groundnut plants.

“The first picking of cotton will be lost in these regions. At many places, the plant was at flowering state and heavy rains with winds damaged that. Also, the quality may get hampered in cotton,” said a farmer source and a member of Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS).

Gujarat is the largest producer of cotton with total cotton production of over 8.7 million bales (each of 170 kg) against 34 million bales nationally for 2012-13 estimates.

Also, over 90 per cent of India’s groundnut cultivation is done in Gujarat. Groundnut area for the kharif season 2013 stands at around 1.6 million hectares in the state.

“So far, rains have not damaged groundnut or cotton crops in the state. The only fear for groundnut is that the farms, which are located closer to dam sites or rivers where flood like situation was created, there could be some damage in groundnut crop,” said Govindbhai Patel, state agriculture minister of Gujarat.

Similarly, the state is a significant producer of pulses in the country with a close to half-a-million hectares of pulses cultivation including tur, moong and urad. India’s kharif pulses acreage stands at around 10 million hectares.

The impact of flooding of rivers and water-logging due to heavy rainfall was severe in the districts of Vadodara, Bharuch, Narmada, Surat, Vapi, Valsad and Dahod. Around 90 per cent of the pulses cultivation in the state takes place in these districts. Heavy rainfall in these regions led to overflowing of rivers Tapi, Narmada, Vishwamitri and Mahi, leading to flooding of the fields.

The regions of Saurashtra and North Gujarat also faced heavy rainfall, but there was lesser impact on crops such as groundnut and cotton.

“Some crops were sown early in May-June. They were ready for harvest so most of such crops were damaged. Central and south Gujarat regions are the worst-affected. Also, there are some instances of loss of cattle,” said Rajkumar.

THE HINDU Business Line

Spot rubber declines further

Kottayam, Oct, 3:

Spot rubber made further declines on Thursday.

Traders were hesitant to enlarge their commitments and the absence of buyers kept the market under pressure.

Meanwhile, the key Tokyo rubber futures, recovered from a two-month low, on bargain-hunting at lower levels.

But the gains were limited, as Chinese players were on holidays.

Sheet rubber weakened to Rs 165.50 (Rs 167) a kg, according to traders. The grade, moved down to Rs 166 (Rs 168.50) at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

October futures concluded at Rs 166.50 (Rs 166.22), November at Rs 165.50 (Rs 165.91), December at Rs 167.80 (Rs 167.87), January at Rs 170.60 (Rs 170.31) and February at Rs 178.31 (Rs 183.82) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) dropped again to Rs 156.37 (Rs 157.93) at Bangkok.

October futures closed at ¥245.0 (Rs 154.88) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 165.50 (167); RSS-5: 162 (164); Ungraded: 155 (157); ISNR 20: 158 (159) and Latex 60%: 131 (132).

Jeera falls on rising supply

Rajkot, Oct. 3:

Jeera prices moved down on the back of increasing supply against weak demand.

Traders said that rains in Gujarat and Rajasthan continued to keep pressure on market sentiments as the sowing season begins.

On the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange (NCDEX), jeera October contract decreased by Rs 265 or 2.06 per cent to Rs 12,605 a quintal, with an open interest of 7,587 lots.

Jeera November contract settled down by Rs 252.50 or 1.93 per cent to Rs 12,847.50, with an open interest of 5,430 lots.

At the Unjha mandi of Gujarat, jeera declined by Rs 45-55 to Rs 2,600-2,750 for 20 kg for the best quality.

Jeera medium grade traded at Rs 2,300-2,600.

Daily supplies rose to more than 6,000 bags of 60 kg each on Thursday from 3,000-4,000 bags a week before.

arrivals

Traders said that, arrivals in the local market are high amid weak demand from local and overseas buyers.

Sowing prospects were also good. Kedia Commodity in its report said that, the strong carryover stocks will encourage strong stockist selling in domestic market.

Jeera November contract may fall to Rs 12,650-12,550.

Cane growers want higher price, say cultivation costs have gone up

New Delhi, Oct. 3:

With the start of the new sugar season, cane growers across the country have stepped up their demand for a higher price, citing increase in cultivation costs.

On the other side, sugar millers, who said they were reeling under the impact of last year's high cane costs amidst bearish sugar prices, have expressed their inability to pay higher than Rs 2,400 a tonne.

Cane arrears at the start of new season are around Rs 3,500 crore, most of it accumulated by millers in Uttar Pradesh (around Rs 2,500 crore), the largest cane-producing State. In the new sugar season 2013-14, which began on October 1, over half-a-dozen factories in Southern Karnataka – mainly in Mysore and Mandya districts - have begun crushing operations.

“We are demanding a uniform price across Karnataka and the mills should pay ex-factory price of at least Rs 3,000 a tonne, excluding harvesting and transportation costs,” said Kurubur Shantkumar, Convenor of the recently formed All-India Sugarcane Growers Association.



Sugar prices are likely to remain bearish on high opening stocks of about 8.6 million tonnes (file photo).

Moreover, cane prices should be linked to sugar recovery, he added.

Karnataka has taken the lead over other major cane-growing States of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra in enacting a legislation and setting up a Sugar Control Board in line with the Rangarajan Committee recommendations to fix the cane price based on sugar and other allied product prices.

However, the process of fixing the cane price for the Karnataka Sugar Control Board has not been smooth so far.

The Board has asked millers to make an advance payment of Rs 2,400 a tonne, same as last year, he said.

A final call on the pricing would be taken after October 15, said Shantkumar, who is a special invitee on the Board.

However, M. Srinivasan, President, Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), said the mills would not be able to pay more than Rs 2,400 a tonne, citing weak sugar prices that had affected the realisations.

Also, sugar prices are likely to remain bearish on high opening stocks of about 8.6 million tonnes, about 20 per cent more than the normative opening balance at the start crushing season.

Sugar production is pegged at 25 mt for the current season ahead of domestic consumption of around 23 mt. In Uttar Pradesh, millers, who said they had been facing the impact of rising cane prices over the past three to four years have expressed their inability to pay not more than Rs 2,400 a tonne.

In the past four years, cane price fixed by the UP Government has seen an increase of around 70 per cent from Rs 165 a quintal in 2009-10 to Rs 280 in 2012-13.

“We want the UP Government to fix the cane price at Rs 310-320 a quintal,” said V.M.Singh, Convenor of Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Sanghatan, stating that production costs had gone up on rising fertiliser and diesel prices.

“Despite the start of new season, the UP Government has not even started the process of fixing the cane price” he said.

Neighbouring Haryana has fixed the price at Rs 301 a quintal, an increase of Rs 25 a quintal over last year.

“If Haryana can increase the price, why can’t the UP Government” Singh asked.

“In Maharashtra, we are seeking a price of Rs 3,200 a tonne,” said farmer leader, Raju Shetty.

The mills had made an initial payment of Rs 2,600 a tonne last year.

While the process of finalising the last year’s payment is on with majority of the mills, some of them have paid Rs 150-200 a tonne as final instalment, he added.

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Local demand may improve for edible oils



Mumbai, Oct. 3:

Edible oil prices dropped on selling pressure following the sharp decline in the futures markets and on hope of timely arrivals of kharif crops. Palmolein and soyabean refined oil declined by Rs 6 a kg each. Cotton and rapeseed oils rose by Rs 4 and Rs 3 each and groundnut oil by Rs 5. Sunflower oil eased by Rs 10. Volumes remained thin on 2.5 per cent fall in domestic soya oil futures and lacklustre demand. Sentiment was bearish, said sources. Lingering bearish sentiment on soyabeans also weighed on palm prices.

Sources said clear weather in main producing states has increased hopes of timely arrivals of oilseeds. Market participants are hoping sharp rise in new arrivals. However, local demand may improve in October due to Navaratri, Dashera and Diwali. Ruchi sold about 80-100 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 556 and Liberty sold about 80-100 tonnes at Rs 556, sources said. Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 556; super palmolein Rs 591 and super deluxe Rs 611; soyabean refined oil Rs 658; sunflower refined oil Rs 815.

Ruchi quoted palmolein Rs 556, soyabean refined oil Rs 651 and sunflower refined oil Rs 790.

Allana quoted palmolein Rs 560-563; super palmolein Rs 595, soyabean refined oil Rs 655 and sunflower refined oil Rs 820. In Rajkot, groundnut oil was higher at Rs 1,325 (Rs 1,285) for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) Rs 850 (Rs 820). New Soyabean arrivals were 1.50 lakh bags in Madhya Pradesh at Rs 3,100-3,450 ex-mandi and Rs 3,500-3,575 for plant delivery.

Mustard seed arrivals were 55,000 bags at Rs 3,140-3,725.

On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, soyabean refined oil November futures dropped by Rs 14.75 to Rs 672.55 (Rs 687.30); December by Rs 19.60 to Rs 667.70 (Rs 686.30) and January by Rs 20.25 to Rs 665.10 (Rs 685.35).

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil November futures settled lower at MYR 2,306 (MYR 2,316), December MYR 2,302 (MYR 2,311) and January at MYR 2,302 (MYR 2,312).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: Groundnut oil 875 (870); soya refined oil 651 (657); sunflower exp. ref. 730 (740); sunflower ref. 790 (790); rapeseed ref. oil 718 (715); rapeseed expeller ref. 688 (685); cottonseed ref. oil 672 (668) and palmolein 556 (562).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd has quoted Malaysia super palmolein – October/Nov delivery at Rs 620 for 10 kg.

Buying support ends rally in mustard oil



Indore, Oct. 3:

Rally in mustard oil ended on Thursday on fall in arrival of seeds and buying support.

Mustard oil in Indore mandis declined by Rs 7 to Rs 648; in Moorena by Rs 5 at Rs 650, while it was Rs 8 down in Neemuch at Rs 642.

It is ruling Rs 3 higher in Indore compared to last week, while it is Rs 8 higher in Neemuch and Rs 2 down in Moorena. In Rajasthan mandis, mustard oil ruled flat. In Gujarat mandis, it declined by Rs 5 to Rs 640 on slack demand and buying support.

Rise in soya oil and report of damage to soyabean crops on account of excessive excessive rains in Madhya Pradesh, and in the neighbouring states of Rajasthan and Maharashtra had also supported bullish trend in mustard oil.

Mustard seeds ruled firm at Rs 4,100-4,200 a quintal (down Rs 50 from last week), while raida ruled at Rs 3,000.

In futures, slack demand and buying support dragged mustard seeds with its October and November contracts on the NCEDX closing lower at Rs 3,495 (down Rs 67) and Rs 3,562 (down Rs 60) respectively.

Slack demand in mustard oil also dragged plant deliveries in mustard seeds for Jaipur line to Rs 3,620-30 (down Rs 45 from last week).

Arrival of mustard seeds declined to 76,000 bags (90,000 bags last week) with Rajasthan leading with 50,000, Punjab/Haryana 7,000, Madhya Pradesh 6,000, Uttar Pradesh 5,000 bags.

Rice prices down on fresh arrivals



Karnal, Oct. 3:

With the government agencies starting paddy procurement for the kharif season 2013-14 on Wednesday, more than 1 lakh bags arrived at the Karnal grain market terminal on Thursday. Because of high moisture level of 25-26 per cent, some of the consignments remained unsold, said Tara Chand Sharma, proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons.

In the physical market, except the PR-14 variety, all other aromatic and non-basmati varieties managed to maintain their previous levels.

Arrivals of new rice coupled with sluggish domestic demand pulled PR-14 variety down, said Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company.

Rice market may continue to rule range-bound but within a negative territory, he added. After witnessing a fall earlier this week, Pusa-1121 (steam) ruled flat and sold at Rs 7,800-7,900 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs 7,200-7,300.

PR14 (steam) dropped by Rs 200 and sold at Rs 2,850.

Pure Basmati (Raw) was quoted at Rs 11,000 and Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs 6,300-6,400 a quintal.

For the broken of Pusa-1121, Dubar quoted at Rs 3,700, Tibar sold at Rs 4,400 while Mongra was at Rs 3,100 a quintal.

In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) sold at Rs 4,500 while Sharbati (Sela) quoted at Rs 4,200-4,250 a quintal.

Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,350-2,400 a quintal, Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,300 a quintal, PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 2,900 while PR-11 (Raw) was quoted at Rs 2,700-2,750 a quintal.

About 90,000 bags of PR paddy came to the market and were quoted at Rs 1,300-1,400 a quintal.

Around 1,000 bags of Pusa-1509 arrived and sold at Rs 3,500 a quintal, thousand bags of Pusa-1121 went for Rs 3,550 a quintal while 8,000 bags of Sharbati arrived and sold at Rs 2,100-2,300 a quintal.

Sugar range-bound on dull demand



Mumbai, Oct. 3:

Sugar prices at the Vashi market ruled steady on Thursday barring minor gains for the fine variety. Naka and Mill tender rates remained unchanged as there was no improvement in demand and supplies were ample. Millers continued selling in the local market in the absence of buying by neighbouring States. Prices on the futures market were range bound on lack of cues, said sources.

Sources said that arrivals and local dispatches were on a par as the market remained closed on Wednesday. With the new crushing season round the corner, producers are keen on offloading old stocks. With supply outstripping demand, prices remained steady.

According to the sources, the demand is usually high at the start of a month. Also, the sentiment will remain positive with the festival season ahead. As prices are ruling below cost, millers are hesitating to sell. Prices are expected to rise from current levels.

Arrivals at the Vashi market were 62- 63 truckloads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 61-62 truckloads. In the last two days, 15-16 mills sold 54,000-55,000 bags at Rs 2,810-2,880 a quintal (Rs 2,810-Rs 2,880) for S-grade and Rs 2,930-Rs 3,000 (Rs 2,930- 3,000) for M-grade.

At the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, sugar November futures were Rs 2,889 (Rs 2,894); December, Rs 2,895 (Rs 2,897), and January 14, Rs 2,905 (Rs 2,905).

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,960-3,115 (Rs 2,958- Rs 3,115) and M-grade Rs 3,131- 3,272 (Rs 3,126-3,272).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,900 -2,960 (Rs 2,900-2,960) and M-grade Rs 3,010-3,100 (Rs 3,010-3,100).

Uttar Pradesh rates were: Lakhimpur Rs 3,300 and Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,260.

Poor turmeric quality keeps prices down

Erode, Oct. 3:

Some varieties of turmeric rose Rs 100-200 a quintal on Thursday. With only inferior turmeric arriving, the price remained depressed and the buying was mainly for on-selling to powder units. About 5 per cent of the stocks fetched higher prices for quality and were despatched to North India.

Even the hybrid variety is fetching lower price on poor quality, said R. K. V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association. He said of the 2,480 bags that arrived, 60 per cent got sold. Low quality turmeric is coming into the market that is not suitable for exports.



P. K. Deivasigamani, President of the Turmeric Farmers Association of India (TFAI), said, “Because of the futures trading, the price of the commodity has dipped. Alleging malpractices in turmeric futures trading, he said an appeal has been made to the Prime Minister to abolish this trade. He also sought the formation of a Turmeric Board for the benefit of the farmers. Traders denied these charges and saw no need for a separate board as turmeric is not an essential commodity. They also wanted the futures trading to continue. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety sold at Rs 3,396-5,267 a quintal, the root variety at Rs 3,196-4,679. The Salem Hybrid Crop finger variety fetched Rs 4,677-5,679, and the root variety Rs 4,409-Rs 5,056. Of the arrival of 523 bags, only 98 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety sold at Rs 4,534-5,617, and the root variety at Rs 3,917-4,811. Of 278 bags received, 259 were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety sold at Rs 4,399-5,609, and the root variety at Rs 4,399-4,911. All the 428 bags that arrived were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety sold at Rs 4,019-5,511, and the root variety at Rs 3,811-4,711. Of the 167 bags received, 160 were sold.

Day trading keeps pepper market active



Kochi, Oct. 3:

Pepper futures at the national exchange witnessed a declining trend while that on the commodity-specific exchange showed an upward trend on Thursday.

Hedgers and position takers were keeping away from the market while day traders were active, market sources said.

There was some selling pressure from the plains of Kerala's rubber growing districts following fall in rubber prices.

Indian parity has become competitive now.

Tight availability situation coupled with volatility in the currency rates have become dissuading factors, they said.

The trade believes that if the 6,800 tonnes held in the warehouses as 'tainted pepper' were released and cleaned and made available, that might solve the shortage problem.

On the spot, 17 tonnes arrived and 15 tonnes were traded, they said. On the NMCE, Oct contract decreased by Rs 86 to Rs 43,322 while Nov was up at Rs 43,360 a quintal.

Total turn over was at 11 tonnes down by four tonnes. The net open position was up three tonnes at 22.

On the IPSTA platform, Oct and Nov contracts increased by Rs 89 and Rs 95 respectively to close at Rs 43,400 and Rs 43,500.

Spot prices also moved up by Rs 100 to Rs 40,200 (ungarbled) and Rs 42,200 (garbled) on good buying support amid tight availability.

Indian parity in the international market was up at \$7,300 a tonne (c&f) Europe and \$7,550 a tonne (c&f) for the US.
