

Date : 08.10.2013

THE HINDU

Pulses Development Board sought

MADURAI

A delegation from the Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its president N. Jegatheesan and senior president S. Rethinavelu, met Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma during his visit to the city on Sunday.

According to a press release, a memorandum was submitted to the Minister on behalf of the Chamber which contained a list of demands for the development of the district.

A request to set up a 'Pulses Development Board' for bettering pulses production and to provide a single window system for farmers and processors was put forth.

A demand to equip the Madurai airport with facilities for the movement of international cargo to facilitate industrial development in southern Tamil Nadu was also made, the release said.

The Chamber also welcomed the idea of setting up industrial clusters in the district as they would increase employment opportunities and stimulate economic development and industrial growth, it added.

Egg export highest in September

NAMAKKAL

For poultry farmers and egg exporters, September was the best month for egg export in 2013. Statistics available with the National Egg Coordination Committee, Namakkal zone, shows that 7.32 crore eggs were exported from the Namakkal region in September, against 4.3 crore eggs in August.

Exporters said that 155 containers (4.72 lakh eggs a container) were exported in September.

"These shipments were almost evenly sent to Afghanistan, Oman and Africa. The increase in supply was powered by low procurement price of eggs in India and the beginning of winter in importing countries," says R. Kannan, general manager of a leading poultry export firm.

“The fasting season of Muslims in the importing countries came to an end a few weeks ago, while September also marked the beginning of the winter in those countries. Eggs being the low priced natural heat producing food item, it is in good demand in those countries,” he added.

On the other hand, farmers said that they wanted to dispatch the eggs (even at a little less price) as they wanted to avoid stagnation when schools remained closed for the quarterly holidays. “Improvement of export stopped price of eggs from falling during the holidays as supply of 45 lakh eggs a day under the nutritious noon meal scheme is stopped till schools reopened,” farmer A. Subramaniam said.

Price advantage

About the price advantage, exporters said that the average price at which eggs were procured from farmers was Rs. 2.90 in Namakkal region, which made it possible for exporters from India to quote a price less than the other competitors.

Industry sources said that Oman and Afghanistan, the major importers of eggs from India, accounting for more than 70 per cent of India’s egg export market, used to buy eggs from Pakistan.

“But at the prevailing market conditions, Indian (Namakkal) eggs are priced less than eggs from Pakistan,” they added.

In addition to those three export segments, exporters said that importers from Bahrain, who used to buy eggs from Kuwait, have evinced interest in buying Indian eggs due to the price advantage. Exporters hinted that monthly export could reach 10 crore eggs in October and could even reach 12 crore eggs in November or December.

Water level

MADURAI

Water level in Periyar dam was 121.80 feet with an inflow of 139 cusecs and discharge of 1272 cusecs. The water level in Vaigai dam was 54.92 feet with an inflow of 729 cusecs and discharge of 60 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 5475 mcft. There was no rain in the region during the last 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Monday, PWD officials said.

Guwahati	25	22	26	191
Hyderabad	31	24	0	8
Kolkata	33	25	6	126
Mumbai	32	26	0	0
Nagpur	31	22	30	139
Patna	32	25	21	39
Pune	31	20	0	4
Thiruvananthapuram	33	24	0	14
Imphal	27	21	9	21
Shillong	18	15	15	60

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, Hisar, Jodhpur and Nalia.

Rainfall: Rain/thundershowers have occurred at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, east Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Weather was mainly dry over the rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm. are: Himachal Pradesh: Ghamroor 2 and Renuka, Nahan and Nurpur 1 each, PUNJAB: Shahpurkandi 5 and Malakpur 1, EAST RAJASTHAN: Dhambola, Veja, Jhalrapatan and Pipalkhunt 2 each and Devel and Jhalawar 1 each, EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Fursatganj 6, Dudhi 5, Ghazipur, Patti and Ghorawal 2 each and Sultanpur and Phoolpur 1 each and WEST UTTAR PRADESH: Orai 1.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: The maximum temperature rose in Rajasthan and east Uttar Pradesh and changed little elsewhere. They were appreciably above normal in Jammu and Kashmir, appreciably below normal in west Uttar Pradesh, below normal in east Rajasthan, east Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and normal in rest of the region. The highest maximum temperature in the region was 39.4°C recorded at Jaisalmer (Rajasthan).

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: The minimum temperature changed little over the region. They were markedly above normal in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, appreciably above normal in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, above normal in west Uttar Pradesh and normal in rest of the region. The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was 17.7°C recorded at Fatehgarh (Uttar Pradesh).

FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 09th OCTOBER 2013 : Rain/thundershowers may occur at many places during next 24 hours and thereafter at a few places over east-Uttar Pradesh. Rain/thundershowers will occur at one or two places over

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, west-Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and east Rajasthan. Weather would be mainly dry over Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and west Rajasthan.

HEAVY RAINFALL WARNING: Heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places over southern parts of east-Uttar Pradesh.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 09th OCTOBER 2013: Mainly clear sky.

State gets its first Spices Park

SIVAGANGA

“The fact that value added products can be exported from India will soon be proved with the establishment of Spices Park,” said Union Finance Minister P.Chidambaram while inaugurating Tamil Nadu’s first Spices Park at Muthupatti near Sivaganga on Sunday.

Job opportunities

Exhorting the farming community to make good use of the facilities at the park, Mr. Chidambaram said that the establishment of the processing plants by exporters will create local employment opportunities.

He also assured that steps would be taken to bring in more spices such as curry leaves and coriander that can be processed and exported from Sivaganga.

The Spices Park set up in Sivaganga at a cost of Rs. 20 crore is aimed at creating infrastructure and processing facilities for turmeric and chilli produced in Tamil Nadu.

The State holds around 10 per cent of the total production of spices in the country and is the second largest producer of turmeric.

The average production of turmeric in the State is over three lakh tonnes per year.

Thanking the State Government for the allotment of land for the Spices Park, Mr. Chidambaram appealed to the cadre of various political parties to unite and strive for the growth and development of Tamil Nadu.

In his address, Anand Sharma, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry said, “It is going to be a turning point for the people, especially the farmers of Sivaganga.”

Mettur level

The water level in Mettur dam stood at 90.65 feet on Monday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 2,712 cusecs and the discharge 23,000 cusecs.

Water level

TIRUNELVELI

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Monday stood at 98.05 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 402.01 cusecs and 1,502.25 cusecs of water is discharged from the dam.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 53.51 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 32 cusecs and 325 cusecs is discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 21.95 feet, 60.80 feet in Perunchani, 9.05 feet in Chittar I, 9.15 feet in Chittar II and 33.96 feet in Mambazathuraiyaru dam.

Fisheries varsity inks MoU with US varsity

TUTICORIN

Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (TNFU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Auburn University, USA.

The MoU was signed between M. Venkatasamy, Director of Research, TNFU and Bill Bachelor, Dean, College of Agriculture, Auburn University.

Citing the agreement reached between the universities as a 'positive step', William Daniels, Guest Faculty, School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences, Auburn University, who paid a visit to the Fisheries College and Research Institute in Tuticorin on Monday, said the MoU provides a platform to share knowledge and work together to enhance fish productivity.

Baskaran Manimaran, Vice Chancellor, TNFU, in his address, said the MoU was signed since the Auburn University is a pioneer in warm water aquaculture, which would be suitable for Indian weather conditions.

Top priority would be accorded to culture non-carp species in warm water. Since farmers were largely relying on water bodies, suitable technologies would be designed to raise fishes. This facility would also provide opportunities for staff and students exchange programmes.

Under the National Agricultural Education Project, there is a proposal to allocate funds to the tune of Rs. 3, 500 crore and hence the TNFU has begun signing MoUs with foreign universities so as to tap such funds to execute more research projects in fisheries sector.

The Vice Chancellor also added that plans were afoot to sign a MoU with the University of Maryland, USA, with a focus on food safety.

G. Sugumar, Dean (in-charge), FCRI, said so far eight MoUs had been signed with universities abroad for education and research programmes and such agreements need to be renewed.

Heads of various departments of Fisheries and faculty members also attended the function.

Foot-and-mouth disease claims 2,060 cows; afflicts 16,573 head of cattle

BANGALORE

Districts	No. of villages affected	No. of animals hit	No. of animals died
Tumkur	57	391	50
Kolar	267	2,652	512
Mandya	187	2,882	325
Bangalore Rural	44	260	43
Bangalore Urban	53	962	94
Chickballapur	108	1,190	215
Mysore	124	1,637	68
Ramanagaram	238	4,357	664
Dharwad	4	217	3
Chamarajanagar	133	953	50
Shimoga	7	75	1
Chikmagalur	3	23	4
Dakshina Kannada	2	17	0
Hassan	21	72	1
Davangere	17	313	12
Bidar	5	40	5
Koppal	12	414	0
Udupi	1	6	0
Belgaum	21	412	13
Total	1,304	16,573	2,060

The foot-and-mouth disease has claimed 2,060 cows and affected 16,573 animals in 1,304 villages in 19 districts of the State between September 1 and October 5.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly H.D. Kumaraswamy, who released data related to the disease, said that shortage of veterinary doctors and non-availability of vaccine were the major reasons for the spread of the disease. Several families, who depend on income for dairying, have been severely affected as a large number of cows died of the disease, he said.

Lakshamma Prakash, resident of Nanur in Channapatna, committed suicide unable to bear the loss of cows. She lost two cows and three sheep, he said.

The disease claimed 664 cows in Ramanagaram district, the highest in the State, followed by Kolar 512, Mandya 325 and Chickballapur 215. The disease has affected 16,573 head of cattle in 19 districts. Mr. Kumaraswamy said that nearly 800 posts of veterinary doctors remained vacant in the State.

The foot-and-mouth disease spread widely due to the shortage of vaccine. As many as 5,635 vacancies, including those in Group D, existed in the Animal Husbandry Department, he said.

According to a veterinary doctor, many cows died of viral infection. As a preventive measure, cattle have to be vaccinated twice a year. The disease affects high yielding cattle early.

Kerala too

With the outbreak of the disease being confirmed in Kerala, entry of cattle (cows, bulls, and buffaloes) from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu into Kerala has been banned.

Karnataka ranks 11th in milk production in the country and contributes 3.57 per cent to the State's Gross Domestic Production. The share of dairying in the farm sector's income is 27.64 per cent in the State.

The cattle head in the State stands at 140 lakh.

JD(S) plans padayatra

The Janata Dal (S) has said that it will launch a padayatra from Srirangapatna to Bangalore if the State government failed to release compensation of Rs. 25,000 each before October 15 to those families who lost cattle to foot-and-mouth disease.

Retired veterinary doctors to help vaccinate cattle

BANGALORE

Vaccination will be taken up on a large-scale in all districts where cattle have been afflicted by foot-and-mouth disease and the services of retired veterinarians will be utilised to help solve the problem, said Minister for Law and Animal Husbandry T.B. Jayachandra on Monday.

Speaking to presspersons here, the Minister said that his department will recruit men to fill 5,500 posts of veterinarians, including group D officials, who would be entrusted with the job of vaccinating animals, including sheep and goats.

Across the world, he said, vaccination was the only solution to stem the disease. Appointment to these posts had not been done for the last eight years, he added.

Mr. Jayachandra said that the disease was confined to six districts, including Ramanagaram and Channapatna areas.

Technical team

He said that an eight-member technical experts committee, headed by a former vice-chancellor Srinivasa Gowda, to study the spread of the disease had been constituted. The committee would present a report in a week. Its recommendations would be studied and feasible suggestions implemented.

On the demand from Opposition parties, including those from the BJP, that a minimum of Rs. 25,000 should be given per cow lost, he appealed to them to educate farmers on vaccinating their cattle, instead of politicising the issue.

***5,500 posts of veterinarians
to be filled***

Foot-and-mouth outbreak under control: Officials

BIJAPUR/BAGALKOT

Vaccination has been completed, inter-State cattle transport halted



The District Administrations of Bijapur and Bagalkot have taken precautionary measure to prevent spreading of Foot and Mouth disease.— Photo: Rajendra Singh Hajeri

The district administration of both Bijapur and Bagalkot have taken extensive precautionary measures to prevent the spreading of Foot-and-Mouth (F&M) disease which has caused the death of over 1,000 cattle heads in southern Karnataka.

According to officials of the Animal Husbandry Department, 23 cases of F&M were found in Bagalkot and 11 cases reported in Bijapur district, though no deaths have been reported.

“The treatment has been given to all the cattle, and all of them have recovered fully. As of now, the situation is under control and not alarming, therefore the farmers need to panic,” the officials said.

They said the Bijapur district has around 4.9 lakh cattle heads with 93 per cent of them vaccinated, while in Bagalkot, 83.06 per cent cattle of the total 5.12 lakh cattle population have been vaccinated.

The department has been holding awareness and vaccination programmes in the district in order to prevent the outbreak of the disease.

The officials said the department had stored adequate quantity of vaccines and treatment was given in time to the cattle found to be suffering from F&M disease.

As a precautionary measure to prevent the spreading of disease, the Department has banned inter-State transport of cattle as the officials feel that some infected cattle may enter the district.

“This is one of the important and stringent measure we are taking to ensure that no cattle in our district gets infected by this deadly disease which spreads like wildfire among the cattle,” the official said.

He said the government has put a ban on holding of cattle market in the State for some time, and said the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee was responsible for implementing the order.

“We are taking necessary precaution, however the cooperation of the people is also crucial,” the officials said.

Dakshina Kannada insulated from foot-and-mouth disease

MANGALORE

Husbandry Department asks farmers to defer buying or selling of animals for 3 months



Despite the anxieties of foot and mouth disease in the plains of the State, Dakshina Kannada remains insulated because of a robust vaccination system and geographical conditions.

In the past three weeks, two cases of the disease were reported, affecting a total of 19 animals. While the tests for six heads of cattle in Ullal tested positive for the disease, officials of the

Animal Husbandry Department are still awaiting the results of tests on blood samples of 13 cows and buffaloes that showed symptoms of the disease in Dharmasthala around 10 days ago. However, as soon as the cases were reported, 808 animals in Ullal and 1,621 animals in Dharmasthala were vaccinated.

The animals in Dharmasthala are in the sheds owned by D. Veerendra Heggade, who had told Chief Minister Siddharamaiah on September 29, during the CM's visit there, to contain the disease as soon as possible.

Barring these incidents that can be contained, the district is not susceptible to the disease, with previous years seeing just "very rare cases", said Deputy Director of the Department of Animal Husbandry, K.V. Halagappa. "Over 97 per cent of the cattle have been covered under the vaccination round conducted from August 1 to September-end," he said. The unvaccinated cattle include calves under the age of four months and pregnant cattle.

Precautions have been taken, and the department has been kept on alert, he said. "The Karnataka Milk Federation and farmers' societies have been sensitised. Farmers have been told to defer their purchase of animals or sale of animals for around three months," said Mr. Halagappa.

The Dakshina Kannada Milk Producers Union Limited (DKMUL) is going one step further in this regard. "We have stopped procurement of cattle from other districts and even Kerala till at least six months have passed after news of FMD outbreaks end," said Managing Director B.V. Satyanarayana.

While cattle may be covered by the vaccination programme, the concern for the Animal Husbandry Department is that pigs and goats are not officially covered by the centrally-funded Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme. "Pigs harbour the bacteria, and cause it to multiple. Similarly, goats, though they are not that susceptible, can be infected too. Both these investments of the farmer are not protected by the government," said Mr. Halagappa.

Move to popularise moong, groundnuts as rabi crops

PANAJI



A farmer sowing green gram seeds in his paddy field. Groundnuts and moong are the most suitable crops for rice fallows.— File Photo: C.V. Subrahmanyam

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), north Goa under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Goa will cover an area of more than seven hectares under groundnut and green gram cultivation during the ensuing rabi season.

KVK said it would work towards popularising these alternative crops for the post-paddy season at a farmers' awareness programme organised on Saturday in collaboration with Green Growth Institute (GGI).

The programme aims to highlight the mandated transfer of technology programmes of KVK, such as Frontline demonstrations on groundnut and green gram (moong) in rice fallows to exhibit the rice-based cropping model for Sangolda village.

Agronomy specialist H.R. Prabhudesai said groundnut and green gram were the most suitable crops in rice fallows. He said the KVK would train farmers in all the skills required to raise their productivity levels, which would result in increased profitability from paddy lands. He complimented GGI for the initiative to get youth and children involved in agricultural activities

and said the project would be monitored on weekly basis. A training session was later conducted in which soil sample collection and testing was demonstrated.

GGI in-charge Sandra Fernandes assured cooperation from the organisation to ensure that agriculture was revived on scientific lines. She said GGI would arrange sessions for children as well as farm women and men with resource persons from KVK.

Led by Zilla Panchayat Member Prakash L. Naik and Sarpanch of Sangolda village Panchayat Pramod Kochrekar, more than 90 male and female farmers participated in the awareness and off-campus training programme in groundnut cultivation.

Minister: new commission will have power to fix prices of farm produce

RAICHUR

Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda has said that the process of setting up an Agriculture Price Commission has begun.

Speaking to presspersons here on Monday, he said that setting up a permanent commission for evaluating the cost of production and accordingly fix the prices for agricultural produces was not a new thing. But, the major difference between the previous commissions and the proposed one was that the previous ones could only recommend the prices and the proposed one would have the authority to fix and enforce the prices, he said.

The government had already had two rounds of discussions with agricultural economists, experts and those who have had experience in the field. "This will be a revolutionary step in the field of agriculture," he said.

Damage

Crops worth a huge Rs. 1,300 crore had been destroyed owing to heavy rain across the State this year. "The crop loss in the State due to recent floods is estimated to be worth Rs. 1,300 crore. The State government has released funds to the districts which submitted the crop-loss report for distribution of relief among affected farmers," he said.

Two slabs

The Union government had set two compensation slabs for crop loss, according which an acre of rain-fed dry land would get Rs. 4,500 and an acre of irrigated land Rs. 9,000 as compensation. "We, in the State government, hold that the compensation set by the Union government is insufficient. We will add some amount while distributing compensation. The government has reserved Rs. 200 crore for the purpose," he said.

Farm scientists

The technological knowledge of agricultural scientists and experts was not properly exploited for advancing agricultural productivity and addressing agricultural distress because they were all involved in administrative and clerical work.

“Entrusting clerical work to experts and scientists prevents them from mingling with farmers and resolving their problems. With an eye on bifurcating educational and administrative tasks, the government is hiring 750 people through outsourcing to be posted at Raitha Samparka Kendras. In addition, 9,500 farm facilitators would be hired for six months a year to work with the officials and the staff of Agriculture Department during monsoon and retreating monsoon season. The orders to this effect had been passed. Employees from other departments who had excess human resources would be transferred to Agriculture Department, he said.

The department had set a target of enhancing the agricultural productivity by 5 per cent, in accordance with the rise in food consumption.

“The agricultural productivity in the State is less than the national average and less than half of international average. We have set a target of enhancing the productivity proportionate to the rise in consumption,” he said. The target for the production of foodgrains for the current year was 130 lakh metric tonnes against the 124 lakh tonnes of the previous year, he said.

Reach out to farmers, farm varsities told



Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda speaking at the valedictory function of the Krishi Mela in Raichuron Monday.— PHOTO: SANTOSH SAGAR

Minister of State for Agriculture (independent charge) Krishna Byre Gowda has said that universities of Agricultural Science should not confine themselves to their campuses, but reach

the fields of farmers so that the latter get to know latest inventions and technologies in the field of agriculture.

He was speaking at the valedictory function of the Krishi Mela 2013 on the campus of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) here on Monday.

The development of new varieties of seeds that could fetch high yields at low production costs were not up to the mark because they were invariably dependent on old varieties. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was very much interested in developing new varieties of seeds and had shown his readiness to extend all possible help in this direction, he said.

The need of the hour was to enhance agricultural productivity, without spoiling the health of the soil, so that the income of farmers could rise. "Enhancing agricultural productivity and the income-level of farmers are interlinked. We cannot expand the cultivable area beyond a limit. However, we can certainly enhance agricultural productivity by adopting new technologies. Farmers in Karnataka are growing 30 to 35 quintals of paddy in an acre of land against 65 to 70 quintals an acre grown in developed countries. We have to set a target of at least 40 quintals an acre for the next few years. This applies to every crop," he said. The scarcity of labour had become one of the major problems of farming community in the country. "I have toured 10 districts and interacted with farmers about the issues they were facing. What I found was that scarcity of labour has pushed them to mechanisation of agriculture. The Krishi Melas do help them get to know of new machinery that can help them address the issue at affordable costs," he said.

Lauding the initiative of the UAS, Raichur, he said, "The very purpose of upgrading the agricultural college into a full-fledged university was to address the issues of farming community in six districts of Hyderabad Karnataka region and take up research on the specificities of the region, in terms of soil and crop pattern. The UAS in Raichur is doing well in that respect," he said. He called upon the farmers not to spoil the soil by overusing fertilizers and pesticides for quick returns. "Excessive use of fertilizers may fetch more yield in short-term, but it kills soil fertility in the long run.

We have to strike a balance between enhancing productivity and keeping the soil's health intact," he said. Two farmers, a man and a woman each from six districts, who had achieved noteworthy success in agriculture and allied fields, were felicitated and conferred 'Shreshtha Krishika' (man) and 'Shreshtha Krishimahile' (woman).

Raichur MLA Shivaraj Patil, Manvi MLA Hampaiiah Nayak, Sindhanur MLA Venkatesh Nayak, Koppal MP Shivaramgowda, agricultural scientists, representatives of different agricultural universities and others were present.

Sorake promises relief to areca growers

Minster for Urban Development Vinay Kumar Sorake on Monday directed the district officials to immediately distribute compensation to arecanut growers who suffered losses due to fruit-rot disease (Kole Roga).

He was presiding over the Udupi taluk-level review meeting on the implementation of government schemes and programmes.

-
- *Rs. 3.25 crore has been released already to be distributed to the farmers in Udupi district*
 - *Urges officials to reach welfare scheme targets aimed at the disadvantaged sections*
-

Weather

Chennai
▼

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather

Tuesday, Oct 8

Max Min

31° | 24°

Rain: 0 Sunrise: 05:58

Humidity: 70 Sunset: 05:54

Wind: normal Barometer: 1010.0

Tomorrow's Forecast

Wednesday, Oct 9

Max Min

33° | 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday Oct 10	Friday Oct 11	Saturday Oct 12	Sunday Oct 13	Monday Oct 14
33° 26° Partly Cloudy	32° 27° Overcast	32° 26° Overcast	32° 26° Overcast	32° 25° Overcast

Airport Weather

Chennai
▼
Chennai

Rain: 0 Sunrise: 05:58

Humidity: 70 Sunset: 05:54

Wind: normal Barometer: 1010.0

Badal for adopting nanotechnology in agriculture sector

Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal on Monday asked the state agriculture department to chalk out modalities for collaborating with the world's top-ranking organisations in nanotechnology for uplifting agriculture in the state.

Badal was reviewing prospects of various applications of nanotechnology in the field of agriculture during a high-level meeting with senior officers of agriculture and horticulture departments, besides scientists of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana.

Emphasising the need to introduce nanotechnology in the agriculture sector, Badal said it would not only enhance crop productivity but also reduce agricultural input costs drastically. He asked PAU scientists to explore the possibilities of effective implementation of this technology in the

state with the help of the world's top universities such as Cornell University (US) and other organisations working in this field.

Experts told the chief minister during the meeting that Nano technology could reduce acidic nature of the soil and attract earth worms to regain its fertility.

Referring to the tissue culture research, Badal approved a plan of Rs. 4 crore to be carried out by PAU in two years and asked its scientists to intensify their research work to develop a seed less variety of Kinnow.

Prominent amongst those who were present in the meeting included Chairman Punjab State Farmers Commission Dr. GS Kalkat, Principal Secretary to CM SK Sandhu, Special Principal Secretary to CM Gaggandip Singh Brar and VC PAU Dr. Baldev Singh Dhillon besides other senior officers of the state government.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES



Delhi facing longest monsoon in 50 years; more rain likely

NEW DELHI: This year's monsoon in Delhi is tipped to be of the longest duration in more than 50 years with another spell of light to moderate rainfall likely this weekend while Dussehra revelries are on in the city.

According to the MeT department, the length of the current Southwest Monsoon is likely to exceed 120 days, breaking the previous record of 111 days recorded 57 years back.

"The SW Monsoon's withdrawal from NW-India is likely to get delayed and break the previous record of latest withdrawal in 1956 and 1959, when it had occurred on October 13," said Dr OP Singh, Deputy Director General of Meteorology, Regional Meteorological Centre, New Delhi.

The normal date of withdrawal for the SW Monsoon from Delhi NCR is September 21. But, most years, the monsoon here recedes by the end of September.

In the last 70 years, only on seven occasions has the monsoon withdrawn from the national capital region in October, in 2007 and before that in 1954, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1961 and 1974.

"In the last one week, isolated rainfall has occurred over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, western Uttar Pradesh, eastern Rajasthan and at few places over eastern Uttar Pradesh," he said.

The delayed withdrawal could play a spoilsport for Durga Puja and Navratri, festivals which are celebrated with fanfare in Delhi NCR, as the area could see showers on Friday and Saturday.

"Another spell of light to moderate rain or thundershowers is expected to occur over Delhi NCR during the weekend (between October 11 to 12)," the MeT office said. Meanwhile, Delhiites witnessed a sunny day today with the maximum temperature remaining above normal.

The mercury was recorded a notch above normal at 34.5 degrees Celsius while the minimum was three degrees above normal at 24.5 degrees. Humidity in air fluctuated between 55 and 89 per cent.

Gujarat to get record groundnut production as good rainfall doubles the yield

PUNE: Gujarat is expected to harvest record ground nut crop of 25.95 lakh tonnes during 2013-14 as the yield doubles over last year due to good rainfall.

Groundnut is one of the major crops in kharif season and Gujarat is the prominent state growing groundnut. Since last 6 years, SEAGroundnut Promotion council has been conducting the Groundnut crop survey to assess the size and quality of the Groundnut crop for the benefit of the members and the industry at large.

Gujarat Government has reported that 16.60 lakh hectares is under Groundnut crop sown during kharif season compared to 12.24 lakh ha in 2012-13 and 14.34 lakh ha in 2011-12. A release of the Solvent Extractors Association stated, ""Average yield per hectare has increased to 1560 Kg. per hectare against 760 Kg. per hectare last year. Gujarat is expected to harvest record crop of 25.95 lakh tonnes during kharif season.""

This estimate is based on survey done between October 3 and 5, 2013. The crop sown earlier during the first half of June is nearly matured and required dry spell for harvest. However, if rain continues, there could be some damage to the standing crop ready for harvest to the extent of about 5/7% and may be reduced approximately around 1.50 Lakh Tonnes.

Parkash Singh Badal bats for adopting nanotechnology in agriculture sector



Parkash Singh Badal asked the concerned state departments to chalk out the modalities for collaborating the with world's top ranking organizations.

NEW DELHI: In a bid to adopt nanotechnology in the agriculture sector, the Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badalasked the concerned state departments to chalk out the modalities for collaborating the with world's top ranking organizations in the field of nano technology.

Emphasizing the dire need to introduce Nanotechnology in the agriculture sector, Mr Badal said that it would not only enhance the crop productivity but also reduce the agricultural input costs drastically. He asked the scientists of Punjab Agriculture University(PAU) Ludhiana to explore the possibilities of effective implementation of this technology in the state with the help and coordination of world's top Universities like Cornell University(US) and other organizations working in this field.

On Sunday, the chief minister reviewed the prospects of the various applications of the nano technology in the field of agriculture during a high level meeting with the senior officers of agriculture and horticulture departments besides the scientists of PAU.

Appreciating the efforts of some farmers working on scientific lines in the field of fisheries and dairy farming, Mr Badal reiterated the state government's firm commitment to introduce new technologies in the field of agriculture and allied farming in the state to facilitate the farmers for supplementing their income. He further said that as the productivity of agriculture sector had been considerably reduced with the over use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides for a long

period thus making the soil extremely hard and acidic. Experts in the meeting apprised the chief minister that nano technology could reduce acidic nature of the soil and attract earth worms to regain its fertility.

Referring to the tissue culture research, Mr Badal approved a plan of Rs 4 crore to be carried out by PAU in two years and asked its scientists to intensify their research work to develop a seed less variety of kinnow.

NCML, ICRISAT join hands for activities under agri business innovation platform

NEW DELHI: To help smallholder farmers achieve market linkages and nurture innovations to stabilize, safeguard and enhance their livelihoods, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and National Collateral Management Services Limited (NCML) signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The partnership aims to develop a framework to enable smallholder farmers to access markets and get the right price for their produce.

This partnership will enable co-operation on knowledge support, exchange of relevant information and development of joint projects to be utilised for agri-business activities and also scientific and business publications. ICRISAT is the country's leading agri-research institute and NCML is a major agri-infrastructure player.

The MoU signed by ICRISAT director William D. Dar was exchanged between Sanjay Kaul, MD & CEO, NCML and Saikat Datta Mazumdar, COO, Nutriplus Knowledge Program of ICRISAT's Agribusiness and Innovation Platform (AIP).

As a part of this agreement, AIP shall closely work with NCML to develop a framework to work towards facilitating and promoting innovative agri-food processing technologies and primary processing, create value added products, food product testing and training, surveys, quality control, quality assurance and documentation and practices to deal with contamination in food commodities.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Tea growers want tech aid to ensure leaf quality

GUWAHATI: With the Tea Board of India coming out with the minimum quality standard for maintaining the quality of green leaves, tea growers are demanding technological intervention in ascertaining the quality of leaves.

In August, the board had issued a circular which said the tea manufacturing units should ensure that of the total weight of green leaves, 65 per cent should be of fine shoots consisting of two to three leaves and a bud and very soft 'banjis' (single leaves), the single leaves should not be more than 30 per cent of the total weight and coarse leaves should not be more than five per cent of the total weight. The circular will be implemented from January, 2013.

The North Eastern Tea Association (NETA), which represents medium sector tea planters and industry, has asked the Tea Research Association (TRA) to find out a technology for foolproof counting of fine green leaves. The NETA said planters in the state are used to the 'two leaves and a bud' concept to ascertain the quality of leaves. They are now getting confused after the new 'three leaves and a bud' concept was introduced.

"Green leaf counting is very subjective. Therefore, to avoid conflict between growers and manufacturers, we need to standardize the green leaf counting. With the advancement of technology, we think a small sensor-based machine can be easily developed to count the fine leaf percentage. Banks are using gadgets to count denomination of currency notes. We believe a technology can also be evolved for counting green leaves," NETA chairman Bidyananda Barkakoty said.

Barkakoty said ballometric count is being used widely in the state. However, with the rising demand for quality leaves, he said, technological advancement has become an imperative.

DECCAN Chronicle

NE monsoon to be late



Picture for representational purpose only.

Chennai: With the month of October beginning on a negative note as far as rain is concerned, it should not be too surprising if TN receives lesser rain in the northeast monsoon season. The city has been registering two to three degree Celsius above normal for this time of year. Weather models also predict less rain for the rest of the month.

In the first seven days of the month, the state registered minus 77 per cent rainfall at 8.1 mm compared to a normal 35.4 mm. Met officials said the state would continue to receive subdued rainfall over the next week. However, they noted that northern TN might see a little rainfall activity in the next two days.

The maximum temperatures at Nungambakkam were 34.9, 35.1 and 33.6 degrees Celsius in the last three days, while the normal maximum temperature for this month is only 31.8C. “The last two days were very dry in Tamil Nadu. We received some isolated showers on Monday but the quantum of rainfall has been below normal for the last one week,” said Dr Y. E. A. Raj, deputy director general of meteorology, Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai.

According to him, TN has not been getting rains because the southwest monsoon is still active over North India. “There is a particular vortex over Bay of Bengal and if it develops then TN would not get much rainfall for another week,” he added.

He said the onset of northeast monsoon might also get delayed in the process. Similarly, an amateur weatherman K. Rajesh expects monsoon to set only after 15 to 20 days. He added that land temperature is unusually high now leading to muggy and hot weather.

Cashew exporters fear US shutdown will hit business



Kollam: Cashew exporters are in a dilemma as the international markets anticipate the aftereffects of the US partial shutdown. The Rs 4,450 crore cashew industry also faces a crisis with export giants turning their attention to India, badly affecting indigenous cashew production.

“Presently, we have orders from the US, but in course of time, the orders could be cancelled due to the US financial shutdown. As US cuts down its imports, other cashew exporting countries will seek out one of the largest cashew consumers, India, for their markets.

These countries have sophisticated mechanised processing and can deliver good quality kernels at a low cost, which in turn affects our indigenous cashew business,” said A Abdul Salam, Cashew Exporters Association.

In the financial year 2011-12, India earned foreign exchange worth Rs 4,450 crores by exporting 1,31,760 tonnes of kernels and 13,575 tonnes of cashewnut shell liquid worth Rs 59.46 crores, according to the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India.

US is the largest importer with 47,611 tonnes worth Rs 1,471 crores, followed by UAE, Netherlands, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and UK. However, the market also faces a price hike in raw cashew imports when compared to last year's prices.

"The cashew industry is also affected by the lesser availability of raw cashew and higher price compared to last year, with the price increasing to \$1350 from \$1200.

Meanwhile, the uncertainties in the US along with the depreciation in the value of the rupee have contributed to the "devaluation" of money during exports and imports. Lack of mechanisation and lesser availability of labour also add to the woes," said Shaji V, Commercial Manager of Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation.

Business Standard

Onion prices start peeling but sentiment still sour

Prices start downward trend but rainfall, supply restrict climbdown



Onion prices have started a downward trend but there is no big relief as yet for consumers. Intermittent rainfall in the growing regions and key marketplaces have kept these high.

Fresh arrivals from Hubli and Bangalore have started in small quantities, joined by imports from Afghanistan, improving the supply at wholesale markets. Experts feel more than the demand-supply issue, the market sentiment is not allowing prices to come down.

Notably, at Lasalgaon in Nashik district, the largest wholesale market in the country, prices touched a recent low of Rs 3,021 a quintal (qtl) on October 1, the lowest since August. However, the fall in prices was temporary, as these surged to Rs 4,100 a qtl on Monday. Arrivals from onion pockets such as Pune and Ahmadnagar have not started in full swing.

“Prices have fallen by around Rs 25 a kg from its peak levels last month. But the sentiment is creating fluctuations in prices. We expected rains to stop by September-end but that is not ending. The new crop has started arriving but in small quantities,” said Ashok Walunj, director of the APMC centre at Vashi, Navi Mumbai.

National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) data showed arrivals remained thin, in the range of 1,600-3,000 qtls at Lasalgaon in the first week of this month. “The prices are fluctuating due to inconsistent arrivals. Rains are unpredictable; therefore, arrivals are

getting affected. By now, full-fledged arrivals should have started. But that has not happened,” said an NHRDF official.

According to traders, after a small dip in the past few days, prices have stopped sliding. Traders say supplies are not matching the demand. However, “even as the arrivals are affected, there is no requirement for further imports. The crop from Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh is sufficient to meet the demand even in the festival season,” said Walunj.

Groundnut production to quadruple in Gujarat: SOMA

The association estimates about 2.40 mn tonnes groundnut production this year as against 600,000 tonnes in previous year



Saurashtra Oil Millers' Association (SOMA) has estimated almost four times higher groundnut production as compare to last year in Gujarat.

According to the association, good monsoon has encouraged farmers to take up groundnut sowing in a big way which may result into increased production.

SOMA has estimated about 2.40 million tonnes groundnut production in Gujarat. According to the association, the groundnut production was about 600,000 tonnes last year in the state.

At its annual general meeting (AGM) on Sunday in Rajkot, the oil millers' apex body said that, Gujarat has received good rainfall during monsoon and due to which the yield has benefited.

Good rainfall has benefited the groundnut yield which may increase by nearly three times from last year's 500 kg per hectare to 1,500 kg per hectare. SOMA informed that groundnut is sown

on 1.65 million hectares of areas in Gujarat during this kharif season as against 1.17 million hectares in last year.

Samir Shah, president of SOMA said, "There might be some damage in groundnut crop due to heavy rain at the end of monsoon but overall scenario is very positive as sowing has increased in this kharif season. Sufficient and timely rainfall has increased the expectation of higher yield in groundnut crop."

As per the SOMA data, highest groundnut production will be seen in Junagadh district with 650,000 tonnes, follow by Jamnagar with 555,000 tonnes and Rajkot with 470,000 tonnes.

On the other hand lowest groundnut production has been estimated for Surendranagar district with 25,000 tonnes as cotton areas is higher than groundnut there. For Banaskantha district, SOMA has predicted 60,000 tonnes groundnut production.

Talking about the method of survey for groundnut production estimate, Manubhai Pateliya, vice president of SOMA said, "Association is still using traditional method for groundnut production estimation. We contacted more than 500 farmers and asked them about the growth of plants, yield expectation. On the basis of these details, we have estimated the production."

However, SOMA also confirmed that several millers were engaged in manipulative activities in edible oils. Some of the millers were mixing groundnut oils.

This has tarnished the image of edible oil industry of Gujarat. Issues such as export of groundnut oil, stock limits and some tax related matters were raised in the AGM.

The leaders have decided to meet the concerned state and central government officials to resolve the matters.

Higher gains on basmati have exporters hoping for potboiler

India's position in basmati exports might consolidate further because the field trials of a new variety, PUSA 1509



The unsteady movements of the dollar has brought anxious moments for exporters at large but basmati rice exporters from India are envisaging better recoveries this year.

“India recorded a 54 per cent increase in the realisations from basmati exports from April to August. We may register a 10 to 15 per cent increase in exports, with higher realisations of up to 25-30 per cent over last year,” a senior at the Agriculture and Processed Food Exports Development Authority (Apeda) told Business Standard.

“Due to structural problems in Thailand, the overall exports scenario of rice has changed and it has benefited exporters the world over. As the price of food items are going up in the domestic and international market, the price of basmati rice is also rising. This is coupled with the growing acceptability of Indian basmati around the world. We are expecting a quantum jump in the realisations from exports,” he said.

India's position in basmati exports might consolidate further because the field trials of a new variety, PUSA 1509, have been quite successful and the new crop could be notified very soon. It is a short duration crop with all qualities of PUSA 1121 and might replace PUSA 1121 in the next few years. This is likely to enhance export volume in the coming years, the official added.

Satman Arora, joint managing director of Satman Overseas Ltd (Kohinoor Rice), says all parameters of exports are perfectly placed this year. “The crop is better, the exports demand is higher and the prices are more remunerative. So, we are expecting a 10-15 per cent jump in our

exports.”

Vijay Setia, managing director of Chaman Lal Setia Exports Ltd (Maharani Basmati), says the carry-forward stock with exporters is minimal. The rice mills in the past few years have added significant capacities so they are capable to milling higher volumes of paddy. The Indian fine variety rice is getting higher penetration and recognition in West Asia very rapidly so all these factors are likely to contribute to higher sales in the overseas market.

While exporters are making a fast buck, the farmers are also sanguine of getting higher returns.

FULL BOIL

Year	Basmati exports (in million tonnes)	Average realisation (\$/tonne)	Export income (in \$million)	Kharif acreage (in mn hectares)
2010-11	2.2	997	2,496*	1.6
2011-12	3.2	925	3,226	1.8
2012-13	3.5	1,050	3,564	1.8
2013-14	4.0	1,300	5,200	1.8

*April to August

Source: Agriculture and Processed Food Exports Development Authority

The new short duration variety, PUSA 1509, consumes less water and gives high yield.

Farmers are getting Rs 3,300 to Rs 3,400 per quintal of paddy this year as compared to Rs 2,200 to Rs 3,300 per quintal in the last season.

Kartar Singh of Sagrur says the mathematics for new basmati fits swell in the current scenario of high input costs as it takes less time.

The Apeda official also confirmed up to five per cent increase in acreage under basmati in Punjab and probability of increase in basmati acreage in the next year due to lucrative returns to the farmers.

India soymeal exports down 4% in oil year 2012-13: SOPA

India soymeal exports decline 4.13 per cent in the recently completed Oil year (October 2012-September 2013) compared to previous Oil year (October 2011-September 2012), according to Soybean Processors Associations of India (SOPA).

Exports in Oil year 2012- 13 stood at 3,473,133 tonne compared with 3,622,909 tonne in the Oil year 2011-12.

"Marginal decline was expected as soybean arrivals remained low in the last Oil year," said Rajesh Agrawal, spokesman and coordinator, SOPA. Soybean is the basic raw material for soymeal.

Major export destinations were Iran, Japan, France, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Korea.

On a financial year basis, the export during April 2013 to September 2013 was 876,294 tonne compared with 837,078 tonne in the same period last year up 4.68 per cent.

"Current Oil year started with weather uncertainties and new crop quality issues but we hope the situation gets better in the coming days," added Agrawal.

August tea output rises 2.2%

Output rose to 154.26 mn kg in August from 150.90 mn kg a year ago, on higher production in West Bengal



India's tea production in August rose 2.2 percent from a year earlier to 154.26 million kg, the state-run Tea Board said in a statement on Monday.

The shortfall in output in the southern states was offset by higher plucking in key north-eastern states.

The country's tea production in the first eight months of the 2013 calendar year stood at 704.87 million kg, up 6.3 percent from last year.

Tea plucking in the world's second biggest producer usually gains momentum between July and

October.

India exports CTC (crush-tear-curl) grade tea mainly to Egypt, Pakistan and the United Kingdom, and the orthodox variety to Iraq, Iran and Russia.

Small sugar eases on poor demand

Trend due to reduced offtake from stockists amid ample supply from mills



Small sugar prices declined modestly at the Vashi wholesale market here today due to reduced offtake from stockists amidst ample supply from mills.

While medium sugar ended stable in the absence of buying support.

Small sugar (S-30) edged down by Rs 4 per quintal to Rs 2,962/3,105 from last Saturday's closing level of Rs 2,966/3,105.

Following are today's closing rates for sugar (per quintal) with the previous rates given in brackets:

Small sugar (S-30) quality: Rs 2,962/3,105 (Rs 2,966/3,105).

Medium sugar(M-30) quality: Rs 3,102/3,272 (Rs 3,102/3,272).

Chana up 1.5% on rising demand

Chana prices for delivery in October traded higher by 1.41%



Chana rose by Rs 47 to Rs 3,056 per quintal in futures trade today as traders enlarged their holdings on rising demand in the spot market. Restricted arrivals of the commodity in the physical market against festival buying somehow capped the gains. At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, chana for delivery in November rose by Rs 47, or 1.56%, to Rs 3,056 per quintal, with an open interest of 84,700 lots. Similarly, chana prices for delivery in October traded higher by Rs 41, or 1.41%, to Rs 2,943 per quintal, with an open interest of 91,860 lots. Traders said speculators increasing their holdings on hopes of rise in spot market demand against restricted arrivals on reports of damage of crop in Gujarat due to heavy rains mainly supported the uptrend.

Soybean up 1.6% on global cues

Marketmen said traders enlarging their positions influenced by a firming global trend, pushed up soybean prices at futures market



Soybean prices rose by Rs 58 to Rs 3,537.50 per quintal in future trade today on increased buying in line with firming overseas cues.

Marketmen said traders enlarging their positions influenced by a firming global trend, mainly pushed up soybean prices at futures market.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, soybean for current October contract improved by Rs 58, or 1.67% to Rs 3,537.50 per quintal with an open interest of 37,900 lots.

Most active near November contract hardened by Rs 45.50, or 1.30% to Rs 3,546 per quintal, having an open interest of 1,32,590 lots.

Cardamom up 0.9% on spot demand

Tight stocks position in the spot market on lower arrivals from producing regions influenced prices



Cardamom prices rose by 0.94% to Rs 756.70 per kg in futures trade today after participants created positions, supported by a pick-up in export and domestic demand.

Besides, tight stocks position in the spot market on lower arrivals from producing regions also influenced prices, traders said.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in November rose by Rs 7.10, or 0.94%, to Rs 756.70 per kg, with a business turnover of 381 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in October edged up by Rs 3.20, or 0.46%, to Rs 698 per kg with trading volume of 179 lots.

Coriander up 2.4% on spot demand

Spice for delivery in October traded higher by 2.31%



Coriander prices rose by 2.43% to Rs 6,311 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions, supported by rising demand in spot markets against tight stocks position on restricted arrivals.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, coriander for November delivery gained Rs 150, or 2.43%, to Rs 6,311 per quintal, with an open interest of 15,840 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in October traded higher by Rs 138, or 2.31%, to Rs 6,115 per quintal, with an open interest of 11,060 lots.

Market analysts said increased buying by speculators, driven by pick up in spot market demand against tight stocks on restricted arrivals from producing belts mainly influenced coriander prices to rise at futures trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

Maize output this year may touch 25 mt



Ahmedabad, Oct. 7:

Maize production in the country this year is likely to touch a record 25 million tonnes as adequate monsoon rains trigger higher acreage across growing states.

According to data available from the Union Ministry of Agriculture, the area under maize, as on October 2, has risen by 11 per cent to 82.24 lakh hectares against 74 lakh ha in the corresponding period last year

Higher than normal rains across major maize growing states such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are likely to further push up rabi acreage this fiscal.

According to the first advance estimates of Ministry of Agriculture, maize production is expected at 17.8 mt compared with 16 mt, according to the fourth estimates for 2012-13.

“Maize production is likely to surpass all records this year. We expect bumper crop as kharif production may cross 18 mt by the time the Ministry comes out with second advance estimates, as the first estimates are usually very conservative,” Raju Choksi, Vice-President (Agri-Commodities), Anil Nutrients Ltd said here on Monday.

Rabi production last year stood at around 6.25 mt despite bad monsoon and so this year, rabi production too is likely to be higher.

Maize prices have been firm since the last couple of months due to scarce supply in the market. With kharif crop likely to arrive in the markets from next fortnight onwards, the prices are expected to fall by 7-10 per cent, he said.

Prices will also be impacted because of higher global supply which may further increase following record crop in Argentina, Brazil and the Black Sea Region, which are major exporters to world markets.

India is currently out priced in the international markets as Indian corn is being offered at \$270-275/mt as against the Ukrainian variety being sold around \$235/mt, he said.

Maize has been trading in the range of Rs 1,500-1,600 a quintal , much above the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 1,175 fixed by the Government last year.

This year, the Government has fixed MSP of Rs 1,310, higher by about 11 per cent compared to last year.

Potato prices recover



Not enough: The current rise in price, however, will not be enough for farmers to recover costs.

Kolkata, Oct 7:

Potato prices have moved up by Rs 20-30 a quintal in West Bengal, this week, as traders and retailers are busy stockpiling for the festive season.

West Bengal will celebrate week-long Durga Puja festival, beginning October 10.

According to Patit Paban De, Member of the West Bengal Cold Storage Association (WBCSA), potato prices have moved up from Rs 440-460 till a week ago, to Rs 460-480 since Sunday.

The current rise in price, however, will not be enough for farmers to recover costs.

According to De, production cost – including storage rentals and finance cost – stand at nearly Rs 500 a quintal (Rs 5 a kg).

“Prices should further rise by at least Rs 20 a quintal to help farmers recover cost,” he added.

Potato prices are ruling nearly 30 per cent lower this year when compared to the same period last year.

Stock

A better demand ahead of the festival is also helping farmers to clear stock of potato from the 425 cold storages in the State. Of the 60 lakh tonnes of potato stored this year, 63-64 per cent of the stock is cleared so far.

According to De, this year's clearance so far is almost at par with the corresponding period last year.

Besides, there are clear indications now that demand from South India to be maintained this year.

South India, especially Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, purchased 1.5-2 lakh tonnes potatoes from West Bengal last year.

The rise in price at the farmers' end has impacted the market price. After buying Jyothi variety potato from farmers in Hooghly at Rs 460-480, the traders are selling it at Rs 660-780 (Rs 640-760 during mid-September).

It, however, has a reverse effect on the final price at which consumers are buying potato.

According to Kartik Halder, a vendor at a market at New Garia, is selling Jyothi variety at Rs 10 a kg, a sharp decline over last month (when consumer price was ruling at Rs 12).

33% Coonoor tea unsold

Coonoor, Oct. 7:

Nearly 33 per cent of 16.12 lakh kg offered for Sale No: 40 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association (CTTA) auctions remained unsold due to inadequate demand.

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the CTC market when Paras Tea Co bought it for Rs 200 a kg.

Vigneshwar Estate got Rs 182, Crosshill Rs 179, Deepika Supreme Rs 176 and Shanthi Supreme Rs 175.

In all, 70 marks got Rs 125.

Chamraj topped the orthodox market at Rs 221 a kg.

Kairbetta got Rs 211, Kodanad Rs 206, Highfield Estate Rs 197, Prammas Rs 196 and Mailoor Estate Premium Rs 190. In all, 48 marks got Rs 125.

The demand was inadequate at high-bids. “We get our required quality tea at lower price at North Indian auctions”, a buyer told *Business Line*.

Importers were also choosy because with most countries producing more, as much as 110 million kg more tea is available in global markets compared to this time last year.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 63-70 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 115-145 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 70-76 for plain dusts and Rs 120-175 for brighter liquoring dusts.

Pepper turns hot

Kochi, Oct. 7:

Pepper futures increased on good demand amid tight supply on the National Multi Commodity Exchange and the Indian Pepper and Spice Trade Association exchanges.

Every player was in a buying mood, market sources told *Business Line*. Dealers from Jharkhand, Bihar and UP covered lower grade material from the plains of Kerala. Inter-State dealers bought from farm-gates of growers at terminal market prices. End users/industry, which was covering only hand-to-mouth hoping prices would fall, has now started buying. Thus, there was good demand from all the corners, they said.

Those buying from the plains are moving the material allegedly as ginger under “self purchase bill” as it does not attract any tax, sources said.

On the spot, 15 tonnes of farm-grade pepper arrived and 17 tonnes were traded at Rs 406-408 a kg. The material was claimed to have moisture content and were fungus-infested, they said, adding that the processing loss, therefore, would be 4-5 per cent.

In the international market also, the supply situation is tight, they said.

Indonesia reported to have quoted \$7,600 a tonne (c&f) while the difference between Vietnam and Malabar is claimed to have narrowed down. Thus, the Indian parity has become competitive. But, according to the trade, availability is a major problem.

The only source, currently, is Brazil and whatever material arrived is picked up by buyers. Now, there are more buyers than sellers, said market sources.

On the NMCE, October and November contracts increased by Rs 375 and Rs 347 respectively to Rs 43,650 and Rs 43,672 a quintal.

Total turnover increased by 27 tonnes to 37 tonnes.

On the IPSTA, October and November contracts went up by Rs 130 and Rs 331 respectively to Rs 43,505 and Rs 43,606.

Total turnover was 68 tonnes, down by 14 tonnes.

Spot prices also moved up by Rs 200 a quintal to at Rs 40,600 (ungarbled) and Rs 42,600 (garbled).

Indian parity in the international market was up at \$7,350 a tonne (c&f) Europe and \$7,600 a tonne (c&f) for the US and remained competitive. Other origins were also reportedly firm.

Groundnut crop projected at record 25.95 lakh tonnes

Soyameal exports drop in volume but up 36% in rupee terms



If rain continues, there could be some damage to the standing crop.

New Delhi, Oct 7:

The groundnut crop in Gujarat this year is estimated at a record high of 25.95 lakh tonnes on higher yields and acreage, according to a recent field survey by the Solvent Extractors Association of India.

Last year, Gujarat produced 6.95 lakh tonnes as drought in Saurashtra impacted the yields.

For the kharif 2013-14 season, Gujarat had reported groundnut acreage of 16.6 lakh hectares, 36 per cent more than last year's 12.24 lakh ha.

The average yield this year is pegged at 1,560 kg for a hectare more than twice than last year's 760 kg, the SEA survey said.

Further SEA said the groundnut crop sown in early June has nearly matured and required a dry spell for harvest.

However, if the rain continues, there could be some damage to the standing crop and the crop size could be reduced by 5-7 per cent, it said.

The Agriculture Ministry in its first advanced estimates has pegged the country's groundnut crop at 55.69 lakh tonnes against 31 lakh tonnes produced last year.

The timely arrival and six per cent excess monsoon rains across the country have boosted the prospects of a record foodgrain harvest this year.

Meanwhile, soyameal exports grew 36 per cent in rupee value terms for the oil-year ended September 2013, but saw a four per cent decline for the period over corresponding last year. According to Soyabean Processors Association (SOPA), the value of soyabean exports for 2012-13 were estimated at over Rs 10,558 crore against previous year's Rs 7,745 crore.

In quantity, the soyameal shipments declined by four per cent to 34.73 lakh tonnes during the oil year 2012-13 October-September on lower availability of the oilseeds for crushing.

Shipment during 2011-12 stood at 36.23 lakh tonnes, SOPA said in a statement.

Iran, Japan, France, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Korea were the major destinations for Indian soyameal exports in 2012-13.

The shipments of soyameal, which is used as animal feed has increased sharply during September this year to 1.73 lakh tonnes from 2,864 tonnes in the same month last year.

The export during April to September in the current fiscal increased by 4.68 per cent to 8.76 lakh tonnes compared to 8.37 lakh tonnes in the same period last year.

Rains hamper onion harvest in Maharashtra

Pune, Oct. 7:

Consumers may have to wait a bit longer to see any significant drop in the price of onions as rains have hampered harvesting in onion growing regions of Maharashtra, the largest producer of the bulb in the country.

Though the 2013 kharif production in the State is good, rains in the onion districts including Satara, Dhule, Jalgaon and Nashik over the last few days have prevented harvesting of the crop, and, hence, led to prices remaining firm.

Wholesale prices at the Lasalgaon wholesale market, which sets the pace for onion prices across the country, ranged at Rs 4,200-4,500 a quintal on Monday.

B.Y. Holkar, Secretary, Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee, Lasalgaon, said that 150 trucks arrived today and supply stood at 2,000 quintals, which is an improvement over last week when it had dropped to 1,500 quintals.

“My estimate is that it will be a couple of weeks before prices come down by Rs 1,000,” he added.

In the retail market at Pune, onions were selling at Rs 60-70 a kg, standing just below the season’s highest of Rs 80.

Meanwhile, sowing has begun for the late kharif onion crop in Maharashtra, while that for the rabi crop, which ranks the highest on the storage quality, will begin in mid November and continue till the end of December, Balasaheb Kale, an onion farmer said.

Spot rubber rules firm

Kottayam, Oct. 7:

Spot rubber was almost steady on Monday.

The market lost its direction amidst extremely low volumes but RSS 4 made marginal gains on comparatively better demand.

According to sources, there was no visible buying pressure from any major consuming industries on the grade but the absence of genuine sellers kept it slightly firm during the late trading hours.

Sheet rubber improved to Rs 167 (Rs 166) a kg, according to traders.

The grade inched up to Rs 166.50 (Rs 166) at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

In futures, the October contracts slipped to Rs 169 (Rs 169.37) while November contracts firmed up to Rs 169.35 (Rs 168.97), December to Rs 171.25 (Rs 170.75), January to Rs 173.52 (Rs 172.54) and February to Rs 176 (Rs 175.49) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange .

RSS 3 (spot) declined to Rs 153.47 (Rs 155.35) at Bangkok.

The October futures closed at ¥245.7 (Rs 156.77) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange .

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg: RSS-4: 167 (166); RSS-5: 161 (161); Ungraded: 155 (155); ISNR 20: 157 (157) and Latex 60%: 129 (129).

Output turns bearish for cotton on record harvest hopes



Rajkot, Oct. 7:

Cotton prices declined sharply on Monday as arrivals of the new crop increased. Lower demand, on the other hand, put further pressure on prices.

Gujarat Shankar-6 cotton was quoted lower by Rs 500 at Rs 46,000-47,000 for candy of 356 kg. Raw cotton or *kapas* was quoted Rs 20-25 lower at Rs 800-1,250 for a *maund* of 20 kg. Though the quality of *kapas* was not good, some traders quoted Rs 1,300-1,315 in Saurashtra.

About 15,000 bales (170 kg each) arrived in Gujarat against 9,000 bales last week. About 40,000-42,000 bales arrived across the country.

According to cotton traders in Rajkot, a delay in the supplies due to rains could restrict curb losses in the near-term but in the medium-term the trend looks bearish on prospect of a record production of 375 lakh bales.

Arrivals of the new crop, which usually begin from October 1, have been delayed by 10-15 days this season.

Traders said that demand is below expectations from millers and exporters as every one is waiting for the arrivals to gather momentum. Demand is likely to come at the end of this month. Expectations of higher production may weight on prices and according to industry sources, cotton may fall further this week.

Dow Jones reports: Cotton futures fell in early trade in the US on reports that rains in the Southeastern portion of the US have not caused any significant damage to crop on the field.

“The precipitation from Tropical Storm Karen was not as significant as first feared,” said Sharon Johnson, senior cotton specialist at Knight Futures in Atlanta. Traders had worried last week that the system would dump rains on cotton fields in No. 2 producing state Georgia and damage yields.

Cotton for December delivery on the ICE Futures US exchange was 1.2 per cent lower at 86.13 cents a pound, the lowest intra-day level since September 26.

Imported oils rise with crude palm oil futures



Mumbai, Oct. 7:

Imported palmolein and soyabean refined oil increase by Rs 3 for 10 kg each on Monday as local refineries increased their rates, tracking firm Malaysian palm oil futures.

All other edible oils ruled steady despite higher demand ahead of Diwali. Local refineries sold about 2,500-3,000 tonnes of edible oils during the day for ready and forward delivery.

Shailesh Kataria of Riddhi Broker told *Business line* that on the one side, local demand will increase and, on the other, chances of further decline in Malaysian palm oil futures from the current level are bleak. The strengthening of the rupee is also a positive factor.

However, hopes of increase in arrival of kharif oilseeds crop may put some pressure. During winter demand for palmolein will slow down since the oil tends to freeze.

Sources said that during the day, Liberty sold 900-1,000 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 555 for October.

Allana sold 500-550 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 555 for spot and up to October 20; 80 -100 tonnes of soyabean oil at Rs 658 for October 10-20.

Ruchi sold 500-600 tonnes of palmolien at Rs 555; 250-300 tonnes of soybean oil at Rs 653 and 100-150 tonnes of sunflower refined oil at Rs 785.

At the end of the day, Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 556, super palmolein at Rs 585 and super deluxe at Rs 605, soyabean refined oil at Rs 658 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 800.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil ruled steady at Rs 1320 for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) at Rs 850. Malaysia crude palm oil November contracts settled higher at MYR 2,322 (MYR 2,315), December at MYR 2,318 (MYR 2,305) and January MYR 2318 (MYR 2309).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 870 (870), soya refined oil 653 (650), sunflower exp. ref. 740 (730), sunflower ref. 785 (785), rapeseed ref. oil 713 (715), rapeseed expeller ref. 683 (685) cottonseed ref. oil 675(675) and palmolein 555 (552).

Bulk buyers await fall in rice prices



Karnal, Oct. 7:

Prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice varieties ruled unchanged on Monday with the trend being steady in the market.

Tara Chand Sharma, Proprietor of Tara Chand and Sons, told *Business Line* that lack of trading at all levels kept aromatic and non-basmati rice prices unchanged.

Bulk buyers are keeping off from the market and they don't want to take fresh position since they are waiting for prices to fall, he said.

Prices of Pusa-1121 varieties may fall in the coming days but the price of pure Basmati may rule at current levels till the end of this month, said Sharma.

Pusa-1121 (steam) ruled flat at Rs 7,800-7,900 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs 7,200-7,300 a quintal.

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

For the brokens 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) quoted at Rs 2,700-2,750 a quintal.

PR14 (steam) sold at Rs 2,850 a quintal.

Paddy arrivals

Paddy arrivals increased to over 1.25 lakh bags of different varieties. About one lakh bags of PR paddy arrived and quoted at Rs 1,325-1400 a quintal. Around 3,000 bags of Pusa-1509 arrived and sold at Rs 3,200 a quintal, 2,000 bags of Pusa-1121 sold at Rs 3,250 a quintal, while 15,000 bags of Sharbati arrived and sold at Rs 2,100-2,225 a quintal. Around 5,000 bags of duplicate basmati went for Rs 3,000 a quintal.

High moisture in soya dries up offtake



Indore, Oct. 7:

Soyabean prices ruled firm in Indore mandis on Monday despite higher arrivals across the State. Soyabean quoted at Rs 3,300-3,450 a quintal with arrivals rising to 2.50-2.75 lakh bags. Inferior quality soyabean with high moisture content, on the other hand, was quoted at Rs 1,800-2,800 a quintal.

As majority of soyabean being brought to the *mandis* are of inferior quality with high moisture content, demand is subdued. Compared with last week, soyabean is ruling stable even as arrival increased by 50,000 bags on Monday.

In the futures market, however, soyabean continued to rule higher for the second consecutive week with speculators pushing up prices on fear of damage to the standing crop.

Besides, strong global cues also added to bullish trend. On the NCDEX, soybeans October and November contracts closed higher at Rs 3,544 a quintal (up Rs 64.50) and Rs 3,556 a quintal (up Rs 55.50) respectively. In absence of quality soyabean for crushers, soyabean plant deliveries rose to Rs 3,500-3,600 a quintal.

Soya oil, too, ruled higher in Indore mandis with soya refined oil being quoted at Rs 650-653 for 10 kg, while soya solvent oil was up at Rs 621-626. In the futures market, soya oil ruled higher on strong global cues and higher speculations with October and November contracts on the NCDEX ruling at Rs 683.90 (up Rs 7.20) and Rs 675.55.

Soyameal in the domestic market ruled firm at Rs 31,000-31,300 a tonne, while its was quoted at Rs 33,200-400 a tonne at the port, up Rs 200-400 from last week.

Meanwhile, traders are of the view that soyabean crop in Madhya Pradesh could be lower than the estimate made by the Soyabean Processors Association of India as 20 per cent of the area under the crop has been affected by rain.

Sugar below Rs 2,800 a quintal at mill level



Mumbai, Oct. 7:

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market ruled steady on Monday as activities were normal. In the spot market, prices for S-grade declined by Rs 4 a quintal on the lower side, while at the higher level, prices were unchanged.

Naka rates were soft. Mill level rates for S-grade dropped below Rs 2,800 a quintal on the lower side, putting further pressure on producers.

Prices in the futures market ruled steady amidst thin volatility in absence of any positive cue, said sources.

A market observer said that as supply is outstripping demand prices are range-bound. Due to higher production and carryover stocks, producers are selling continuously.

The new crushing season has started and the output is expected to be higher than demand.

The Vashi market is carrying over 115-120 truckloads of inventories. Upcountry buying is lacking in Maharashtra, due to disparity.

Arrivals at the Vashi market continued to be 60-62 truckloads (each 100 bags), while local dispatches were 61-62 loads.

On Saturday 11-12 mills sold about 44,000-45,000 bags at Rs 2,780-2,860 (Rs 2,800-Rs 2,860) for S-grade and Rs 2,930-Rs 3,000 (Rs 2,930- 3,000) for M-grade.

On National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange, November futures ended unchanged at Rs 2,898, December gained at Rs 2,901 (Rs 2,897) and January closed Rs 10 up at Rs 2910.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were (Rs/quintal): S-grade Rs 2,962– Rs 3,105 (Rs 2,966– Rs 3,105) and M-grade Rs 3,102 - 3,272 (Rs 3,102- 3,272).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,910 -2,950 (Rs 2,910-2,950) and M-grade Rs 3,005 - 3,130 (Rs 3,005 – Rs 3,130).

Uttar Pradesh rates were: Lakhimpur Rs 3,310; Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,240.

Turmeric perks up on poor arrivals



Erode, Oct. 7:

With arrivals dropping sharply in Erode markets, turmeric prices increased marginally on Monday. The rise was despite the quality of arrivals being inferior.

“As only 1,290 bags arrived, prices improved by Rs 100 a quintal. Though inferior quality arrived, local traders purchased for supply to powder units and ‘masala’ factories,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President of the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said some bags of hybrid variety turmeric fetched higher price. A couple of exporters have received a few upcountry orders and they purchased the quality hybrid finger variety.

“Traders are still waiting for upcountry orders, as the orders that have come in are very low,” said Ravishankar.

No turmeric exporter has received fresh order from North India this year. Growers said that due to poor demand they are bringing only medium variety turmeric and they are holding back the best quality turmeric for prices to improve.

Of the 1290 bags that arrived, 65 per cent was sold.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the fingervariety was sold at Rs 3,406-5,289 a quintal and the root variety at Rs 3,374-4,811.

Salem hybrid crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 4,891-6,336, the root variety Rs 4,396-5,016.

Of the 290 bags that arrived, only 72 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety went for Rs 4,189-5,287, the root variety at Rs 3,950-4,896. Of the 163 bags up for sale, 160 were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,455-5,469 and the root variety at Rs 3,619-4,876. All the 115 bags on offer found takers.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing society, the finger variety went for Rs 4,650-5,889 and the root variety Rs 4,196-5,067.
