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THE HINDU

VISAKHAPATNAM

Use biotechnology to improve sugarcane productivity: ICAR Additional DG

'Scientists and stakeholders should work in tandem to develop climate resilient agriculture'



Vice-Chancellor of Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University Padmaraju addressing delegates at the group meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane in Visakhapatnam on Friday. Director of Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, S. Solomon, Additional Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research N. Gopalakrishna, Director of Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, N. Vijayan Nair, and coordinator of AICRP O.K. Sinha are seen. —Photo: C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

There is a need to focus on using cutting edge tools of biotechnology to improve sugarcane crop and its productivity, Additional Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Commercial Crops) N. Gopalakrishna has said.

Addressing the delegates of the two-day group meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane at the inaugural session here on Friday, he exhorted the scientists to work in tandem with the stakeholders to help develop climate resilient agriculture. “There is a need to address issues such as mechanisation, soil improvement, deficiency of micronutrients, and water-logging that are specific to sugarcane cultivation,” he pointed out.

“The ICAR is not consciously pushing for horizontal expansion of sugarcane. It is not looking at making farmers shift to sugarcane. But, if any less used land is brought under the crop, there is no objection to it,” the Additional Director-General said.

Noting that a lot of research work was going on in agriculture, he said there was every reason for Indians to be proud as most brilliant students were preferring research and research

institutes had been consistently contributing to the development of agriculture in tandem with the stakeholders. “The budgetary allocation to AICRP, especially sugarcane, has been increased significantly,” he added. “Sugarcane is the safest crop in the region,” Vice-Chancellor of ANGRAU Padmaraju said, explaining its resilience. The crop can withstand extreme weather conditions such as cyclone, he said, recalling his experience with such a crop during a cyclone in Godavari districts.

“There is a need for research to improve rain-fed sugarcane cultivation,” he said, and urged scientists to work towards improving the productivity of the crop in the State from 70 tonnes per hectare on an average to 150 tonnes per hectare. Farmers in Tamil Nadu were able to get up to 200 tonnes per hectare, he pointed out, and urged the farmers to take up drip irrigation. The earning from the crop must compete with other crops such as paddy and maize, he said.

The government should link MNREGS with sugarcane harvesting. That way, the agricultural labour would be guaranteed 100 days of labour in the harvesting season, he said. He unveiled the logo of the 100 year celebration of Regional Agricultural Research Station, Anakapalle, on the occasion.

Coordinator of AICRP O.K. Sinha, Director of Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, S. Solomon, Director of Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, N. Vijayan Nair, Director of Research in ANGRAU Ranga Reddy, and a host of officials and scientists of ICAR institutes and stakeholders attended.

Mechanisation, soil improvement, deficiency of micronutrients, and water-logging issues need to be addressed

Budgetary allocation to AICRP, especially sugarcane, has been increased significantly

There is a need for research to improve rain-fed sugarcane cultivation, says ANGRAU Vice-Chancellor

Logo of 100-year celebration of RARS, Anakapalle, unveiled

TIRUCHI

Fertilizer stock adequate for samba season

Adequate stock of fertilizer is available with primary cooperative credit societies and private fertilizer dealers, said K.Tharparaj, District Revenue Officer.

Presiding over the agriculturists' grievances day meeting here on Friday, he said that 6,496 tonnes of urea, 5,710 tonnes of DAP, 2,705 tonnes of potash, and 6,067 tonnes of complex is currently available. He said that 76,055 acres had been brought under samba cultivation against the targeted 1.50 lakh acres.

Farmers have been evincing interest in adopting System of Rice Intensification method of cultivation and about 45,705 acres had been brought under the method.

Kuruvai cultivation had been completed in 3,430 acres and the average yield per hectare was 7.671 tonnes. He also explained various schemes being implemented under the National Agricultural Development Programme, farm mechanisation scheme, minor irrigation, and land development programme.

TIRUNELVELI

Poultry training programme focuses on broiler farming

A 5-day training programme on 'broiler farming' that was conducted at Veterinary College and Research Institute's Abishekapatti campus concluded on Friday. Twenty-two beneficiaries participated in the training programme conducted under the Tamil Nadu Government Poultry Development Scheme.

As part of the training programme, arrangements were made for the beneficiaries to visit a commercial broiler farm at Nanguneri wherein hands on training on brooding of chicks, feeding, watering and broiler management was conducted.

Certificates, books on broiler farming were distributed to the beneficiaries during the valediction, in which J. Johnson Rajeshwar, Dean (In-Charge), Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli, C. Kangaraj, Joint Director, Animal Husbandry Department Tirunelveli, V. Thanaseelaan, Professor and Head, Instructional Livestock Farm Complex, spoke.

The training programme had been arranged by C. Manivannan, Professor and Head, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Education.

Water level

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 79 feet . The dam had an inflow of 292.25 cusecs and 554.75 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 51.10 feet . The dam had an inflow of 10 cusecs and 25 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 19.80 feet, 57.95 feet in Perunchani, 8.21 feet in Chittar 1, 8.30 feet in Chittar 11 and 35.62 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru dam.

CUDDALORE

Farmers want ceiling on crop loans raised

Farmers of Cuddalore district have urged the authorities to lift the ceiling on crop loans as it is not in consonance with the cost of inputs and losses suffered by them owing to natural calamities.

Raising the issue at a grievance day session held here on Friday, Karmangudi S. Venkatesan, a farmer, said that for the past four years, farmers had wanted the ceiling of Rs.1 lakh to go. The technical committee comprising officials of the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, banks and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development meet periodically to determine the ceiling on crop loan by taking into account cost of cultivation, sale price of commodities, etc.

Based on those factors, the committee had fixed a crop loan of Rs. 20,000 per acre for paddy for the current year. However, the committee had imposed a ceiling that whatever be the size of the land holding of a particular farmer, the maximum loan must not exceed Rs. 1 lakh.

Mr. Venkatesan said, "It defeats the very purpose of giving away crop loans. For instance, a farmer owning 10 acres should be entitled to get Rs. 2 lakh as crop loan as per the committee formula. But, in reality he would get only Rs. 1 lakh."

It was so with the farmers raising other crops such as banana, sugarcane and coconut. Therefore, Mr. Venkatesan made a strong plea that the ceiling on crop loan be abolished and money sanctioned on the basis of original acreage.

Another farmer P.Ravindhiran, who is president of the Federation of Cuddalore district Uzhavar Mandrams, pointed out that based on the inputs of the Public Works Department officials of Thiruvarur, Thanjavur, Ariyalur and Perambalur districts, Chief Minister Jayalalitha had sanctioned a sum of Rs. 287 crore for artificially recharging water sources, including construction of check-dams, deepening the water sources, etc. In fact, Cuddalore district, which was facing floods and drought in alternate manner, should have got priority on this score. Had

PWD officials of Cuddalore district acted in a pragmatic manner, the district would have got similar attention from the Chief Minister.

TIRUCHI

Farmers seek coverage for all under insurance scheme

'State must permit procurement of paddy with a moisture content of up to 21 per cent'



A farmer raising a point at grievances day meeting in Tiruchi on Friday.— PHOTO: R.M.

RAJARATHINAM

Banana growers of Tiruchi district have urged the district administration to extend the individual crop insurance scheme, introduced in Thottiyam taluk, to all parts of the district. Banana farmers have incurred substantial loss due to gale and only an individual insurance scheme covering all farmers would offer some relief, said the farmers at the agriculturists' grievances day meet held here on Friday.

Ayilai Siva.Sooriyan, district secretary, Tamizhnadu Vivasayigal Sangam affiliated to the Communist Party of India, said that insurance authorities should convene a meeting with farmers to rectify the glitches in the scheme. N.Veerasekaran, coordinator, South and North Ayyan Vaikkal Ayacutdars Association, said that the State government should impress upon the Centre to hike the minimum support price for paddy as was done for wheat. Mr.Veerasekaran urged the State government to permit procurement of paddy with a moisture content of up to 21 per cent, since moisture content would be higher during the current kharif season.

R.Subramanian, deputy secretary, Cauvery Delta Farmers Association, pleaded for sustained discharge of water from the Mettur dam for the current samba season. Tail-end areas were yet to receive water and farmers in Karur and Tiruchi districts would benefit only through a steady discharge and it should not be suspended on any account till the end of samba season, he said.

A.Nagarajan from Puliyur said that the banks should not adjust the wages being disbursed under MNREGS against the outstanding loan dues of farmers.

BANGALORE

ICAR urged to strengthen farm extension research

The three-day national conference of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) that concluded here on Friday recommended to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to strengthen agricultural extension research in the country.

Recommendations by the national conference of the KVKs — district-level centres acting as a link between agriculture extension and research — are important as they lead to policy formulation in the agricultural sector.

Impact of technologies

The recommendation note suggests that in the process of strengthening agricultural extension research, the KVKs should play an important role in collection, compilation and documentation of field data on adoption and impact of various technologies and farm practices. The conference, in which representatives from all the 634 KVKs in the country participated, recommended that the KVKs should also help farmers in developing marketing skills besides forming associations of producers for taking up collective bargaining to get remunerative prices for their produce.

Theme

In tune with its theme of ‘Sustainable intensification of small holder farmers’, the conference stressed the need for KVKs to focus more on programmes addressing the needs of small farmers.

It also recommended that the KVKs validate and demonstrate area-specific small integrated farming models with the technological support from agricultural universities and the ICAR institutes to suit the local resources.

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- *‘KVKs should help farmers in developing marketing skills’*
 - *‘They should focus more on programmes addressing the needs of small farmers’*
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BIDAR

Irrigation projects will be expedited: Minister

The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha has urged the government to buy all the foodgrains required for distribution under the public distribution system (PDS) directly from farmers.

“The government should drop the idea of buying grains from traders. It should buy the grains directly from farmers as it will not only relieve farmers from the clutches of traders but also make them self-reliant. It will create an assured market for the produce and arrest the gradual decline in the area under food crops,” Vishhwanath Patil Koutha, KRRS district unit president, told presspersons here on Friday.

Farmers in Karnataka grew adequate quantity of jowar for distribution under the PDS. They were willing to supply grains, if they were given remunerative prices, he said and urged the State government to increase the minimum support price for jowar from the present Rs. 1,800 a quintal to Rs. 2,500 a quintal, even though it was less than the prevailing market rate of Rs. 3,000 a quintal, he said.

Earlier, P.V. Sateesh, director of the Deccan Development Society, a non-governmental organisation promoting millets, welcomed the decision of the State government to introduce jowar and millets under the PDS. The Millet Network of India and KRRS had succeeded in convincing the government on introducing grains other than rice and wheat under PDS. “We are taking up a pilot project to introduce millet-based food products in anganwadis in Bidar district,” he said. The sangha had taken up a pilot project to estimate the cultivated area and availability of jowar and millets in north and south Karnataka. A team of farmers was working in Aurad taluk

and another in HD Kote taluk, Mysore district. Both had found optimum stock of these grains. However, farmers wanted better prices for them, he said.

Srimant Biradar, who headed the team that surveyed jowar-growers in Aurad taluk, said that in Thana Kushnoor hobli alone, there was an assured quantity of over 22,000 quintals of jowar available. This would go up by 15-20 times, if the whole district's production was included, he said. The KRRS was willing to convince farmers to supply jowar and millets if the government was willing to negotiate the prices with them, he said.

KHAMMAM

Rains damage cotton crops in 40,000 ha in Khammam

MP Nama Nageswara Rao demands that special counters be set upto purchase discoloured paddy, cotton from farmers at MSP



COLOSSAL LOSS: A farmer trying to salvage the damaged maize crop at Gudimalla in Khammam district on Friday. - PHOTO: G.N. RAO

The continuous spell of rain for the last three days inflicted a major blow to the farmers, particularly cotton, paddy, and maize growers in the district.

According to unconfirmed reports, heavy rain that lashed several parts of the district in the last few days caused severe damage to standing cotton crop in over 40,000 hectares.

The unexpected rains also damaged standing paddy crop on an extensive scale mainly in Thallada, Kallur, Sattupally, Wyra, and several other mandals at the crucial harvesting stage, sources added. Maize, chilli and vegetable growers also suffered major losses due to the rain

devastation in Bayyaram, Mudigonda, Yellendu, Tirumalayapalem, Kusumanchi, Wyra and various other mandals across the district.

In a statement, the CPI (M) district secretary P. Sudarshan Rao demanded that the government should initiate urgent steps to ensure purchase of the wet cotton, paddy and other agriculture produce from the farmers at minimum support price and payment of compensation of Rs. 10,000 per acre to each rain-affected farmer.

In a separate statement, Khammam MP Nama Nageswara Rao said the cotton, paddy, chilli, maize, banana and tobacco farmers suffered extensive crop losses to the tune of Rs. 5 crore due to heavy rain that battered the district in the last couple of days.

Review meet

He demanded that the government should take up enumeration of crop losses and provide compensation to the rain ravaged farmers on a war footing. He further wanted the government to set up special counters to purchase the discoloured paddy, cotton, maize and other agriculture produce from the farmers at MSP to bail them out from the current crisis.

Meanwhile, Collector I Srinivas Sri Naresh reviewed the situation arising out of the incessant rains in the district with the officials concerned here on Friday evening.

He asked the Agriculture department officials to undertake field visits to assess the crop damage and submit detailed reports at the earliest.

MACHILIPATNAM

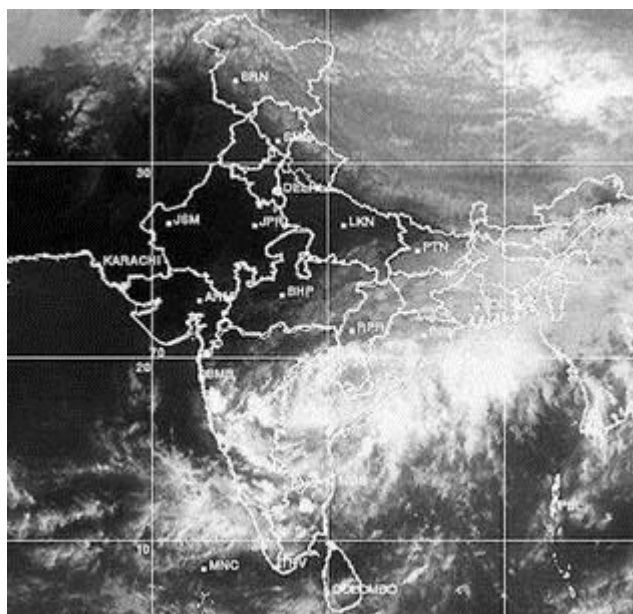
Cotton, paddy, betel vine badly damaged

Four days of heavy rainfall in northeast monsoon led to unprecedented inundation of above 20,000 hectares of cotton fields in Krishna district, and are on the verge of being damaged despite some let up on Friday.

According to Krishna district authorities' report released on Friday, paddy fields in 19,000 hectares have been damaged due to the incessant rainfall recorded since Wednesday. Following the cotton crop damage, significant damage of betel vine has been reported in estimated 109 hectares. Betel vine is being cultivated extensively in a few selective areas including Pamarru, Vuyyuru and outskirts of Vijayawada city. A special report on the three-day rain released by the Krishna district Collector M. Raghunandan Rao confirms that there was no human loss across the district.

However, Agriculture and Revenue officials will start enumeration of crop damage from Saturday

weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on October 25th.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	31	19	0	52
New Delhi (Sfd)	31	17	0	72
Chandigarh	31	17	0	29
Hissar	33	16	0	4
Bhuntar	28	10	0	5
Shimla	20	11	0	66
Jammu	30	17	0	122
Srinagar	23	5	0	15
Amritsar	31	17	0	77
Patiala	31	18	0	9
Jaipur	31	21	0	2
Udaipur	30	18	0	55
Allahabad	32	24	0	300
Lucknow	32	18	0	42
Varanasi	32	23	0	141
Dehradun	29	17	0	34
Agartala	32	24	0	168
Ahmedabad	33	22	0	63
Bangalore	26	21	6	47
Bhubaneshwar	26	23	120	641
Bhopal	31	22	0	26
Chennai	31	25	1	157

Guwahati	31	21	0	213
Hyderabad	25	21	21	200
Kolkata	31	24	25	371
Mumbai	33	25	0	66
Nagpur	28	23	0	167
Patna	31	23	0	194
Pune	32	21	0	22
Thiruvananthapuram	32	23	1	212
Imphal	30	16	0	53
Shillong	20	13	0	67

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

Rainfall: Weather was dry over the region.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: The maximum temperature fell in east Rajasthan and changed little elsewhere. They were above normal in Jammu and Kashmir and normal in rest of the region. The highest maximum temperature in the region was 36.5°C recorded at Phalodi (Rajasthan).

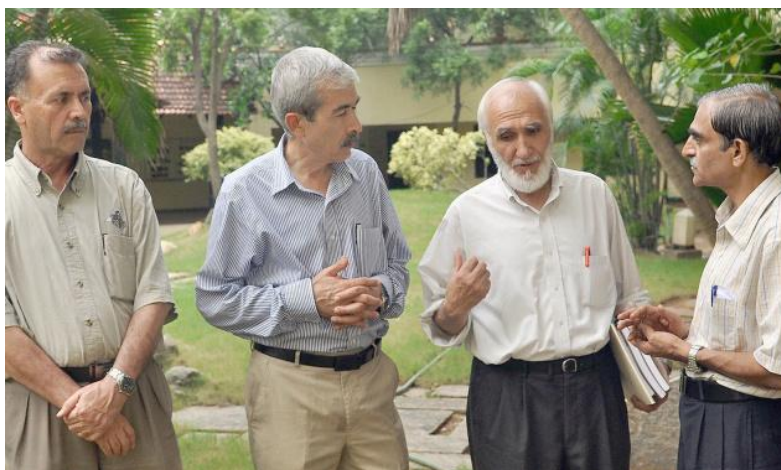
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: The minimum temperature rose in east Rajasthan and changed little elsewhere. They were appreciably above normal in Punjab and east Uttar Pradesh, above normal in Himachal Pradesh, east Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and normal in rest of the region.

The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was 14.0°C recorded at Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh).

FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 27th OCTOBER 2013: Weather would be mainly dry over the region.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 27th OCTOBER 2013: Mainly clear sky. Mist/Shallow fog in the morning.

A fruitful field visit for Afghan team



Scientists from Afghanistan interacting with J. Srinath, principal scientist, Jametji Tata National Virtual Academy, at MSSRF in Chennai on Thursday. Photo: K.V. Srinivasan

The scientists learnt changes brought about MSSRF in farm practices

The expertise of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in using technologies for dissemination of information among farmers is set to enrich the agricultural extension services in Afghanistan.

A team of 25 scientists from Afghanistan is in the State to undertake field visits to learn first hand the changes brought about by the MSSRF in agricultural practices in improving crop diversity, yields and farm incomes and ecology preservation.

“Afghanistan as a country that passes through four seasons and has six agro-climatic zones has plenty to learn from here,” said Nesar Ahmad Kohestani from Kabul University.

However, agricultural production in that country involves less of paddy and wheat and more of fruits and maize.

According to Prof. J. Srinath, principal scientist, Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy, MSSRF, of particular interest to the scientists – and of relevance in Afghanistan – was the MSSRF’s use of ICT tools in delivering relevant inputs to farmers and fisherfolk. “We saw for ourselves how the use of technology was as effective as it was simple,” said Gulam Rossor Faizi, a scientist from Afghanistan, where the MSSRF is engaged in salvaging endemic germplasm after years of strife.

The visit by scientists formed part of a six-month training programme under the auspices of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute to develop the Afghanistan’s first agricultural university in Kandahar.

The team was at the MSSRF's bio-village and village knowledge centre in Thanjavur, fisheries units in Chidambaram and the Pichavaram mangrove systems.

However, as much as sustainable agriculture, lasting peace was equally vital for the livelihood security of the people of Afghanistan, according to the scientists from the land-locked mountainous country.

"We had a flourishing agricultural legacy until the outbreak of Civil War in the 1970s but we are almost back to where we began. The gene bank we had has collapsed. We have abundant water and a strong network of dams but our enjoyment of the natural resource depends on sustained peace in the region," said Gulam Rossor Faizi.

ERODE

Differences surface among farmers over concrete-lining of LBP Canal



The future of farmers cultivating crops in the canal's ayacut area would be in jeopardy.

One section says it will be an exercise in futility, while the other says it is a dire necessity

Difference of opinion among farmers over concrete-lining of LBP (Lower Bhavani Project) Canal surfaced during the monthly grievances day meeting chaired by District Collector V.K. Shanmugam here on Friday.

One section of farmers sought to explain that the Rs. 1,210-crore concrete-lining project would turn out to be an exercise in futility, citing the difficulties a majority of farmers in the ayacut areas would be subjected to, while another section, especially those in tail-end areas of the canal in Erode and neighbouring Karur districts, emphasised that it was a dire necessity.

By altering water availability through implementing the project, the Public Works Department (PWD) would be stirring a hornet's nest. Maintenance of concrete-lined canals constructed under the Parambikulam-Aliyar and Mulla Periyar projects had proven to be costly. On the other hand, maintenance of the Lower Bhavani Project Canal did not entail expenditure in the last 60 years.

The future of farmers cultivating crops in the canal's ayacut area would be in jeopardy. Disadvantages would outweigh benefits. There was no need for the Government to implement the project with World Bank loan, said S. Nallasamy, president of Lower Bhavani Farmers' Welfare Association, charging the PWD with misleading the State Government on the issue.

He exuded hope that the Chief Minister would step in (to cancel the project) before the start of its implementation.

Mr. Nallusamy also advocated implementation of turn system, saying that water availability in the Bhavani Sagar Dam and requirement of water until the end of the crop season must be taken into consideration.

But, farmers benefitting from the canal's ayacut in Chennimalai area wanted the project to be implemented. Modernisation of the canal was necessary to ensure water supply to farmers in the district's farther end as well as eliminating enormous wastage due to seepage, N. Swaminathan, a farmer of Chennimalai area said.

He urged the PWD to shelve release of water through turn system as water availability for Chennimalai farmers would be curtailed to just three days a week at a time when the agriculture activities had taken a hit due to prevailing water inadequacy.

The point raised by farmers of Chennimalai was buttressed by those in Aravakurichi taluk of neighbouring Karur district. Agriculture fields in about 4,000 acres in the villages of Anjur, Monchalur and Karvizhi would turn arid if the concrete-lining of LBP was not undertaken, they said in a representation to the Collector.

The project was all the more important since the Cauvery River Waters Tribunal had reduced award of water for irrigation in Lower Bhavani ayacut area to 28 tmc from the earlier level of 36 tmc, they added.

hindustantimes

Weather

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 0
Humidity: 89
Wind: normal

Saturday, Oct 26

Max 32° | Min 26°

Sunrise: 06:01
Sunset: 05:44
Barometer: 1009

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Sunday, Oct 27

Max 32° | Min 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday Oct 28	Tuesday Oct 29	Wednesday Oct 30	Thursday Oct 31	Friday Nov 1
33° 25° Cloudy	31° 25° Overcast	31° 26° Overcast	29° 26° Overcast	28° 26° Overcast

Airport Weather

Chennai Delhi

Rain: 0
Humidity: 83
Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:28
Sunset: 05:41

Barometer: 1014



THE ECONOMIC TIMES

20 mn tonne wheat wasted in India every year: IME



Around 20 million tonnes of wheat is wasted in India every year due to inadequate storage infrastructure, Institution of Mechanical Engineers said today.

NEW DELHI: Around 20 million tonnes of wheat is wasted in India every year due to inadequate storage infrastructure, Institution of Mechanical Engineers said today.

"Foodgrains are lost in India mainly due to lack of facilities in storage and transportation. 20 million tonnes of wheat is lost every year as a result of that," said Tim Fox, Head of Environment at the UK-based body.

He released the report, 'Global Food: Waste not, Want not'. It highlights the lack of infrastructure for appropriate storage and logistics as one of the major factors contributing to foodgrains wasted around the world.

According to the report, 1.2-2 billion tonne foodgrain is wasted throughout the world and most of the wastage in developing countries occurs between the farm and the marketplace.

"Around 40 per cent of India's fruit and vegetable production is lost between the farm and the consumer due to lack of cold storage," Fox said.

The food being wasted could feed the growing population globally and help one billion people who go hungry across the world, he added.

On the genetically modified (GM) crops, Fox said: "In the era of climate change, GM crops are required to maintain the present level of production."

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers is based in UK, and promotes, advances and updates knowledge, business and practises of mechanical engineering professionals. It represents over one lake members in 139 countries.

[Ajit Singh writes to PM seeking export sops for sugar mills](#)



In view of surplus domestic sugar output, Union Minister Ajit Singh today shot off a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh demanding export sops and hike in import duty to improve finances of millers

NEW DELHI: In view of surplus domestic sugar output, Union Minister Ajit Singh today shot off a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh demanding export sops and hike in import duty to improve finances of millers.

The letter to PM comes in the backdrop of sugar mills, particularly from Uttar Pradesh, facing financial problems because of lower sugar rates. UP mills have not been able pay cane arrears to the tune of Rs 2,400 crore. They have also incurred cash loss of Rs 3,000 crore last year.

Singh, the chief of Rashtriya Lok Dal, also warned that mills may delay crushing operation of sugarcane and compel farmers to burn cane this year.

"30-40 lakh tonnes of sugar needs to be exported in the next 8-10 months. I understand that the global sugar prices are depressed and sugar exports from India is unviable.

"Therefore, similar to 2006-07 and 2007-08 season, the government should announce incentives to target for 30 lakh tonnes of exports," said Singh, whose party has strong presence in the sugarcane belt of western UP, in the letter.

The country's sugar output stood at over 25 million tonnes in the 2012-13 season (October-September) against the demand of 22 million tonnes. India started the new sugar marketing year on October 1 with record carry-forward stocks of 8 million tonnes.

With so much surplus sugar in the country, Singh said: "There is absolutely no reason to import any sugar into India. We need to export sugar and not import cheap sugar from Brazil and Pakistan. Hence, the import duty on sugar should be increased from 15 per cent to 40-60 per cent immediately."

Stating that banks are not showing interest to extend working capital loans to mills, Singh said, "Unless efforts are made to reduce the surplus to the manageable levels and mills are financially assisted, the sugar industry will struggle for liquidity."

The ex-factory sugar price in UP have fallen to Rs 29 per kg now, as against Rs 36 per kg in the year-ago period.

"May I therefore request for your personal intervention in the matter and get the above request examined in the next meeting of the Cabinet," he wrote in the letter.

"Any delay may cause many sugar mills do not operate and may lead farmers to burn their cane, which will create a difficult situation to control," he said in the letter.

Ajit Singh bats for the UP sugar industry



Ajit Singh along with UP sugar industry representatives met the Food minister K V Thomas and the Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar asking for centre's intervention in fixing a cane price formula in the state.

NEW DELHI: Ailing UP sugar industry now has a new supporter in Ajit Singh, chief of Rashtriya Lok Dal. The cabinet minister for aviation along with UP sugar industry representatives met the Food minister K V Thomas and the Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar asking for centre's intervention in fixing a cane price formula in the state.

"Amount of cane arrears in the state has crossed historic level and farmers are suffering due to delayed payment. For mills to pay them, there needs to be a sound cane price linkage formula. We have requested the agriculture minister to kindly take up this matter with the state government," said Singh.

The current amount of cane payment default in UP totals up to Rs 2,400 crore and the sugar mills based in the state have reported a loss of Rs 3,000 crore. The prevailing price of sugar in the state currently is Rs 29 per kg to Rs 32 per kg.

"We have earlier requested Mulayam Singh Yadav to call a all political party meeting along with industry and farmers representatives to start the process of fixing a cane pricing formula," Singh told reporters.

He also said that if a cane pricing regime doesn't come in before the new sugar season commences, mills would have to delay crushing. Singh said that cane price linkage formula suggested by the Rangarajan Committee should be considered and taken up by the state for the better interest of the farmers and the sugar industry.

In its recommendations, Ranagarajan Committee has linked the cane price with the price of sugar and by products price realisation.

"We have suggested other options as well such as augmenting the import duty on sugar and promoting ethanol blending program which would help the mills offload their surplus stock," said Singh.

Food minister K V Thomas however ruled out immediate possibility of any further hike in the import duty of sugar. "We are in discussion over the suggestions made," said Thomas.

On UP sugar industry's demands he said that cane price is a state subject and they have no direct role to play in the state except advisory

Onion prices to come down in next 10 days: K V Thomas



Onion prices have been ruling at Rs 70-90 per kg in most parts of the country and even touched Rs 100 per kg in some cities.

NEW DELHI: Food Minister K V Thomas today said onion prices will come down in the next 10 days with the fresh arrival of domestic and imported stock, while asking the traders not to "loot" consumers by charging more.

Onion prices have been ruling at Rs 70-90 per kg in most parts of the country and even touched Rs 100 per kg in some cities like Patna and Jammu.

Stating that there is no need to be "alarmed" about the situation, Thomas said the decision on

onion import tender floated by the co-operative Nafed would be taken on October 29 following which shipments would arrive after 3-4 days.

"Onion prices will come down in next 10 days. Traders should take legitimate margin and not loot consumers. Farmers should get reasonable price and consumers should also get onions at affordable rates.

The state governments have been asked to take strong action against hoarders and few states have already taken action, he said, adding that "We need not be alarmed about the situation".

Thomas informed that he has discussed the supply situation with Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Karnataka governments and the onion arrivals are improving.

"Nafed has floated tender (to import onion) and the decision will be taken on Oct 29. After the decision, onion will arrive in 3-4 days," the Minister said.

"Our analysis is that production is as good and even better than last year but the prices have remained higher," he said.

Thomas emphasised on the need to balance the supply situation in the case of onions, potatoes and tomatoes through the help of cold storage facilities.

"In vegetable like onion, tomato and potato, there is period of plenty and there is situation of scarcity. We need to balance with more use of cold storage and warehousing facilities," Thomas said.

Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) has been asked to explore possibility of storing onion grown in the rabi (winter crop) season to avert any such crisis next year.

"Nafed is prepared to procure onions during the plenty and supply to states during lean season. Unfortunately that has not worked. Nafed has very good cold storage facilities," he said.

Refined soya up 0.7% on rising demand

Oil for delivery in December moved up by 0.58%



Refined soya oil prices extended gains for the third day by rising 0.70% to Rs 729.70 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions, supported by rising demand in the spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, refined soya for delivery in November added Rs 5.10, or 0.70%, to Rs 729.70 per 10 kg with an open interest of 84,230 lots.

In a similar fashion, the oil for delivery in December moved up by Rs 4.15, or 0.58%, to Rs 721.90 per quintal in 98,640 lots.

Analysts said speculators enlarged positions on the back of rising demand in the spot market supported by ongoing festive and wedding season demand mainly kept refined soya oil prices higher at futures trade.

Chana up 0.4% on rising demand

Commodity for delivery in December traded higher by 0.38%



Maintaining winning streak for the fourth straight session, chana prices added 0.42% to Rs 3,072 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions, driven by rising demand in the spot market in view of festive season.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, chana for delivery in November added Rs 13, or 0.42%, to Rs 3,072 per quintal with an open interest of 99,180 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 12, or 0.38%, to Rs 3,132 per quintal in 54,050 lots.

Market analysts said speculators enlarged their positions, driven by rising demand in the spot market in view of festive season mainly kept chana prices firm for the fourth day at futures trade.

Onion prices to come down in next 10 days: Thomas

Onion prices have been ruling at Rs 70-90 per kg in most parts of the country and even touched Rs 100 per kg in some cities



Food Minister K V Thomas today said onion prices will come down in the next 10 days with the fresh arrival of domestic and imported stock, while asking the traders not to "loot" consumers by charging more.

Onion prices have been ruling at Rs 70-90 per kg in most parts of the country and even touched Rs 100 per kg in some cities like Patna and Jammu.

Stating that there is no need to be "alarmed" about the situation, Thomas said the decision on onion import tender floated by the co-operative Nafed would be taken on October 29 following which shipments would arrive after 3-4 days.

"Onion prices will come down in next 10 days. Traders should take legitimate margin and not loot consumers. Farmers should get reasonable price and consumers should also get onions at affordable rates.

The state governments have been asked to take strong action against hoarders and few states have already taken action, he said, adding that "We need not be alarmed about the situation".

Thomas informed that he has discussed the supply situation with Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Karnataka governments and the onion arrivals are improving.

"Nafed has floated tender (to import onion) and the decision will be taken on Oct 29. After the decision, onion will arrive in 3-4 days," the Minister said.

"Our analysis is that production is as good and even better than last year but the prices have remained higher," he said.

Thomas emphasised on the need to balance the supply situation in the case of onions, potatoes and tomatoes through the help of cold storage facilities.

Potato up 0.1% on spot demand

Analysts said increased positions built up by speculators supported by rising demand in the spot market influenced potato prices



Potato prices moved up by 0.14% to Rs 885 per quintal in futures market today as speculators built up fresh positions, driven by pick up in demand in the spot market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for delivery in far-month March rose by Rs 1.20, or 0.14%, to Rs 885 per quintal in business turnover of 20 lots.

Analysts said increased positions built up by speculators supported by rising demand in the spot market against restricted arrivals from producing regions mainly influenced potato prices in futures trade.

Crude palm oil up 0.3% as demand picks up

Oil for delivery in October edged up by 0.24%



Crude palm oil prices rose by 0.36% to Rs 536.90 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators created positions supported by a rise in demand in the spot market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in November moved up by Rs 1.90, or 0.36%, to Rs 536.90 per 10 kg in business turnover of 97 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in October edged up by Rs 1.30, or 0.24%, to Rs 539.60 per 10 kg in 24 lots.

Market analysts said speculators created positions due to rise in the spot market demand mainly attributed rise in crude palm oil prices at futures trade.

Cardamom down 0.3% on low demand

Spice for delivery in December shed 0.24%



Continuing its losing streak for the fourth straight session, cardamom prices fell by 0.34% to Rs 731 per kg in futures trade today owing to subdued demand in the spot market against higher supply from producing belts.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in November fell further by Rs 2.50, or 0.34%, to Rs 731 per kg in business turnover of 178 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in December shed Rs 2, or 0.24% to Rs 751.50 per kg in 20 lots.

Market analysts said low demand in the spot market against supply pressure from producing belts mainly kept pressure on cardamom prices at futures trade.

Decoding onion inflation - a multi-layered tragedy

Seasonal factors may provide interim relief every once in a while, but in India, an onion upswing is always around the corner



Onion prices have hit that ugly and politically unpalatable Rs 100 per kilo mark (at least the good quality ones), sending the government of the day into a tizzy. Perhaps, the layered, intricate composition of the commodity is an apt allegory to the analytical complexity of decoding the onion conundrum that economists have been grappling with, for a long time now.

Long-term market strategies must to ease prices: CACP

Onion prices have risen fourfold in the past six months



With onion prices showing no signs of easing, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has urged the Centre to draw a long-term market intervention plan to control prices of the essential commodity.

Talking on the sidelines of AgriCorp 2013, a two-day conference organised by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ashok Gulati, chairman of the CACP, said, “There are two ways in which the government can intervene and bring prices under control of any commodity.”

According to Gulati, the government should first build buffer stocks, depending on onion production and storage capacity. For long shelf-life, the onion should be hydrogenated. During the lean season, it can be sold at a lower price. This has been found effective in the case of commodities like sugar, as the presence of buffer stocks discourage traders from hoarding.

Second, the government must import onion and sell it at a subsidised rate. This will bring down onion prices substantially in the open market and the hoarders will have no option but to sell it at the market rate.

When asked why the government should suffer losses in this exercise, Gulati told Business

Standard, “Nothing comes without a price. The government will have to bear this if it wants onion prices to remain within certain limits.”

Anil Jain, managing director of Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd, said, “The wholesale price of onion had been in the range of Rs 2 to Rs 4 a kg for 25 years between 1971 and 1996. After that, the price started marginally moving up. In the last few years, the market price has reached up to Rs 100 a kg.”

Despite such high prices, farmers were forced to sell their produce at rock-bottom prices during the peak harvesting season, making cultivation unremunerative.

Currently, hydrogenated onion is being sold at Rs 15 a kg in certain markets as against the prevailing market price of Rs 100 a kg. Meanwhile, wholesale onion price in Delhi touched Rs 51.75 a kg on Thursday — a rise of Rs 1 a kg from the previous day.

Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, on Thursday, reiterated that heavy rainfall restricted the supplies in Karnataka and Maharashtra, resulting in spiralling of prices.

Onion prices have risen fourfold in six months. Data compiled by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs showed the retail onion price at Rs 60 a kg on Thursday in Chennai, Rs 66 a kg in Mumbai and Rs 60 a kg in Kolkata.

The government has asked National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd to import onions from Pakistan and other countries. Of late, the focus of the government has been to raise cereal output to meet the food security Bill requirement. Experts said it should also focus on improving the production of fruits and vegetables.

Rains wash cotton, paddy output hopes



Battered by weather: Farmers exhibit damaged corn at Gudimalla market yard in Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh on Friday. — G. N. Rao

Hyderabad, Oct. 25:

Incessant rains in the last two weeks could adversely affect cotton and paddy crop in Andhra Pradesh this year. Reports suggest that Phailin cyclone and unabated rains have damaged crops in about five lakh hectares, with cotton and paddy receiving the maximum damage. Thousands of acres of standing crop are inundated in several districts.

“If there is no let up in the next one or two days, the loss could be much more,” Sarampally Malla Reddy, National Vice-President of All-India Kisan Sabha, told *Business Line*.

First pickings constitute about a fifth of all cotton produced in the State. The State has estimated cotton production at 60 lakh bales this year against the normal production of 40 lakh bales. Last year, when it grew the crop on 22 lakh hectares, it produced 56 lakh bales, almost doubling from 31 lakh bales in 2011.

Telangana region, which dominates the cotton area in the State, has been battered with unabated rains in the last few days, destroying cotton that has arrived in North Telangana market yards. The standing crop, too, has been impacted.

The industry and the Government initially thought that the area under cotton could drop to 15 lakh hectares but the area touched 22 lakh hectares again this year. This made the Government revise the estimates upwards. Unprecedented rains, however, could spoil the cotton farmers’ party this year.

Y.S.R. Kadapa district received 67 per cent excess rain in October, followed by Karimnagar (62 per cent), Adilabad (59 per cent), Kurnool (39 per cent) Warangal (36 per cent), Guntur (30 per cent), Srikakulam (26 per cent) and Krishna (23 per cent.)

The Telangana region, which takes a lion’s share in cotton area, received 22 per cent excess this month. Rains have upset the harvesting plans of farmers in several parts. While some farmers have already begun harvesting paddy in several parts, cotton farmers, too, have started

their first pickings. Official estimates have put the loss of cotton crop in about two lakh hectares. This figure, however, is expected to rise as the IMD has forecast more rains in the State.

Spot rubber slips further

Kottayam, Oct. 25:

Spot rubber slipped further on Friday. There were no buyers even at lower levels to initiate a partial recovery in the market.

Meanwhile, overnight rains continued to disrupt tapping in almost all major plantation areas. The trend was mixed and volume low.

Sheet rubber weakened to Rs 159 from Rs 159.50 and Rs 160 a kg, respectively, according to traders and the Rubber Board. The grade dropped to Rs 156 (157) as quoted by the dealers.

November futures slid to Rs 159.35 (159.78), December to Rs 161.00 (161.73) and January to Rs 163.45 (164.01), while the February and March futures remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) closed weak at Rs 156.49 (156.87) at Bangkok. October futures closed at ¥244.6 (Rs 154.83) at the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates (Rs/kg) were: RSS-4: 159 (159.50); RSS-5: 151 (151); ungraded: 146 (146); ISNR 20: 151 (152) and Latex 60%: 117 (118).

Rabi pulses, oilseed sowing begins

High soil moisture, reservoir levels brighten prospects

New Delhi, Oct. 25:

Planting of rabi or winter crops such as pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane has begun in some parts of the country, according to preliminary reports.

The Agriculture Ministry on Friday said that pulses including chana or gram have been sown on 8.8 lakh hectares (lh) so far against 5.98 lh in the corresponding period last year. Similarly, sugarcane has been planted on about 81,000 hectares against 80,000 hectares last year.

Oilseeds have been sown on 2.63 lh against 8.51 lh last year on delayed start in planting of rapeseed and mustard. High soil moisture and comfortable water levels in the reservoirs across the country have boosted the prospects for the rabi season.

Excess rains

After excess rains in June-September, the precipitation has continued to be higher than normal during October. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, the rainfall across the country during October 1-24 was 51 per cent more than normal. Twenty two metrological subdivisions received excess rains during the period, while three had normal and the remaining 11 received deficient rains.

Also the increase in minimum support prices for key crops such as wheat and rapeseed mustard by Rs 50/quintal should aid rabi acreage. Against last year's rabi acreage of 62.9 million hectares, the Government expects winter crops to be planted on about 62-65 million hectares this year.

The Government is targeting rabi oilseed output of 10.5 million tonnes this year against 10.14 million tonnes last year. Wheat acreage is expected to be 29 million hectares, same as last year. Wheat production target has been pegged at 92.5 million tonnes, same as last year.

Except for rice, the planting of kharif crops has ended and harvest of paddy, oilseeds and pulses has begun. Till date, the total rice acreage is 383.57 lh against 374.73 lh last year.

Rains may extend to Maharashtra, MP

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct. 25:

The rain-driving low-pressure area continued to pummel Andhra Pradesh with heavy showers during the 24 hours ending Friday morning. Similar conditions are forecast to continue over the State as well as Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal for at least two more days.

India Met Department (IMD) confirmed that the system has thrown up a trough, an elongated area of low pressure lorded over by it and extending all the way to West Bengal and the North-Eastern States.

It also said that the core low-pressure system will re-curve and start to move along this trough, raining all the way up.

The IMD said the system may remain practically stationary on Saturday, before moving East-North-East along the trough.

A couple of international models indicated that the system might start losing intensity soon thereafter and merge with the trough along the East Coast. Until such time, the system would usurp whatever moisture becomes available in the Bay of Bengal and rain it down over Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal.

Parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand too may benefit in the process. Easterly winds from the low-pressure might interact with the flows from a persisting western disturbance over north-west India to cause the rain over Gujarat.

In fact, many places over Konkan and Goa, to the South of Gujarat, received showers during the 24 hours ending Friday morning.

The IMD said in its bulletin that the North-East Monsoon has been vigorous over coastal Andhra Pradesh and active over Rayalaseema and Kerala until Friday morning.

Meanwhile, the well-marked low pressure area lay parked over Telangana and adjoining areas of Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema on Friday afternoon.

A weather warning said heavy to very heavy rainfall, extremely heavy at times, would lash Coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Quality issues, slack demand plague cotton



Rajkot, Oct. 25:

Cotton price continued to decline on Friday due to poor demand from millers and exporters.

According to market sources, buyers are inactive in the market as the quality of arrivals is still poor. Arrival of the fibre increased this week but as demand was limited, prices declined.

Against an arrival of 20,000-22,000 bales of 170 kg at the beginning of the week, on Friday about 29,000-30,000 bales arrived in Gujarat. Arrival across the country were reported at about 80,000-85,000 bales.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton declined by Rs 200-300 to Rs 42,000-43,000 a candy of 356 kg. *Kapasor* raw cotton was down by Rs 15-20 to Rs 970-980 a *maund* of 20 kg for super quality while average kapas price stood at Rs 900-950.

According to a broker, the quality of the new crop is still not good and buyers are waiting for the best cotton. As a result demand is very limited.

Moreover, as the price has gone down, farmers who have quality cotton are not coming forward to sell their produce.

Traders said that export demand is likely to emerge after Diwali or mid- November.

Dow Jones reports: Cotton futures were trading near a nine-month low on Friday as weak demand and a global surplus of the fibre continued to weigh on prices.

Cotton for delivery in December on ICE Futures US was down 0.3 per cent at 78.95 cents a pound.

Spot pepper continues to rule hot



Kochi, Oct. 25:

Spot pepper prices continued to rule hot, hitting another new high, while November futures contract also increased.

In Karnataka, those having pepper stocks quoted Rs 485-495 a kg on cash-and-carry basis and this phenomenon, market sources said, has driven the buyers to Kerala. As a result, the demand is flowing to Kerala and it has pushed spot prices up, market sources told *Business Line*.

They said that Karnataka-based exporters were buying 550 GL pepper from expert processors in Kerala. The domestic demand is turning strong, they said, adding that exporters to West Asia were active in the market. Similarly, some of the exporters are also covering to cater to other overseas markets. All these factors have aided the price rise.

On the spot, 16 tonnes of farm grade pepper arrived and 18 tonnes were traded. On the NMCE, Nov contract increased by Rs 395 to Rs 47,005 a quintal.

Spot prices shot up further by Rs 600 on strong demand amid tight supply to Rs 45,800 (ungarbled) and Rs 47,800 (garbled) . “If this trend continued it might touch Rs 500 a kg soon,” some of the traders claimed.

Indian parity in the international market moved up further to \$8,350 (c&f) Europe and \$8,650 a tonne (c&f) for the US. All the origins are reportedly firmer as the supply scenario continued to stay tight world over, they said.

Outlook turns bearish for masoor



Indore, Oct. 25:

A strong buying support at lower levels from millers has lifted masoor prices in the past two days by Rs 125 a quintal.

Besides, decline in selling pressure from traders has added to the rise. On Friday, masoor (bold) in local mandis was quoted at Rs 4,225 (Rs 4,200), while masoor (medium) ruled at Rs 3,500-3,800 a quintal.

According to local traders, a rally in masoor appears unlikely in the coming days given adequate domestic stock and expected arrival of 15,000 tonnes of imported masoor from Canada.

Rise in spot masoor also lifted dal by almost Rs 100 in the past one week with masoor dal (average) in local mandis at Rs 5,000-5,100, while masoor dal (medium) at Rs 5,100-5,200 and masoor dal (bold) ruled at Rs 5,200-5,300 respectively.

The rally in urad continued with arrivals exceeding demand. Urad (best) in local mandis on Friday was quoted at Rs 4,200-4,350, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,500-3,800. With steep decline in output this year due to crop damage on account of rains, stockists have gone all out

in building inventories, leading to a sharp rise in its prices in the past one month, said a trader adding that given the prevailing scenario, rally in urad will likely to continue in the coming days.

Urad dal (medium) was Rs 4,600-4,700 , urad dal (bold) at Rs 4,800-5,000 , while urad mongar ruled at Rs 5,200-5,600 .

Moong and its dal ruled stable on steady demand and buying support with moong (bold) remaining stable at Rs 5,200-5,400, while moong (medium) ruled at Rs 4,500-4,800. Similarly, moong dal also ruled flat with moong dal (medium) being quoted at Rs 6,200-6,400, moong dal (bold) at Rs 6,500-6,800, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,000-7,200 a quintal.

Food authorities' raid paralyses edible oil trade



Mumbai, Oct. 25:

Activities on the Mumbai edible oils market came almost to a standstill on Friday on account of raids carried out by Food and Drugs Administration authorities forcing traders to sell commodity only in packaged form.

The raid has been going on for the past 10 days with officials raiding wholesale shops in central Mumbai and suburban areas on Friday. As most of the stockists are doing business in loose form or package oil in old tins, they kept away from fresh bulk buying. However, prices were mixed.

Groundnut, sunflower and cotton oil ruled steady. Palmolein and soyabean oil declined by Rs 3 and Rs 2 each for 10 kg on weak Malaysian futures, while rapeseed oil inched up by Rs 10 on firm reports from producing centres as demand is expected to rise in winter. In the domestic market, soyabean oil futures ruled firm as profit-taking offset robust demand in spot. There were also concerns that supplies may be disrupted again due to rains. On the spot, demand is still healthy for *Diwali*. Oil millers are actively buying soyabeans and rapeseed.

Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoted palmolein at Rs 585, super palmolein at Rs 625 and super deluxe at Rs 645, soyabean refined oil at Rs 710 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 820. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 578 ex JNPT and Rs 582, super palmolein at Rs 614, soyabean refined oil at Rs 700 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 771.

Allana quoted palmolein at Rs 579-583, super palmolein at Rs 614, super deluxe at Rs 630, soyabean refined oil at Rs 700 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 820.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil declined by Rs 10 to Rs 1,320 for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) was steady at Rs 850 (Rs 850). Total soyabean arrivals were 5.50 lakh bags and prices were Rs 3,000-3,600 ex mandi and Rs 3,650-3,750 plant delivery. Mustard seed arrivals were 75,000-80,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,250-3,850.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's November futures settled lower at MYR 2,458 (MYR 2,472), December at MYR 2,445 (MYR 2,462) and January at MYR 2444 (MYR 2464).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 860 (860), soya refined oil 700 (702), sunflower exp. ref. 735 (735), sunflower ref. 785 (785), rapeseed ref. oil 751 (741), rapeseed expeller ref. 721 (711) cottonseed ref. oil 705 (705) and palmolein 577 (580).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 648/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein November delivery.

Mills' tussle with farmers may hit sugar exports



Mumbai, Oct. 25:

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market ruled steady for the third consecutive day with minor changes on Friday.

In the spot, prices declined by Rs 3 for S-grade on the higher side while it increased by Rs 9 for M-grade on the lower side. *Naka* and mill tender rates were unchanged on routine activities.

Demand for the fine variety continued to be higher ahead of Diwali .

Meanwhile, traders have struck export deals for about 1.75 lakh tonnes of raw sugar for December-January delivery, but exports are unlikely to pick up if mills are forced to buy cane from farmers at higher price. An observer said that a dispute over sugarcane prices between farmers and mills may curb sugar exports, delay crushing in the new season and even trigger bankruptcies. Farmers in the top sugar producing States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are demanding higher payment for their cane while millers, already cash-strapped, want to rationalise prices in line with prices.

Sources said that sugar market is passing through limited activities despite higher demand for festival this month because the new crushing season has begun and the carryover stocks are high. This is keeping prices under check. Arrivals in Vashi market were 62-63 truckloads (100 bags each) while local dispatches were also 61-62 loads. On Thursday, 14-15 mills came forward with tenders and sold about 38,000-40,000 bags at Rs 2,700-2,840 (Rs 2,700-2,840) for S-grade and Rs 2,880-3,000 (Rs 2,880-3,000) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,892-3,032 (Rs 2,892-3,035) and M-grade Rs 3,011-3,251 (Rs 3,002-3,251). *Naka* delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,830-2,920 (Rs 2,830-2,920) and M-grade Rs 2,950-3,120 (Rs 2,950-3,120). Uttar Pradesh rates were: Lakhimpur Rs 3,320 and Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,230.

Wheat may rule firm next few days



Karnal, Oct. 25:

Rising domestic demand coupled with limited availability of stocks pushed *dara* wheat and flour prices up on Friday.

Radhey Sham, a trade expert, told *Business Line* that fresh buying by flour mills against restricted availability helped dara and flour prices climb up.

Millers are procuring stocks from the Food Corporation of India to meet their requirement, he said.

In the physical market, dara wheat went up by Rs 15 to Rs 1,585-90 a quintal.

Around 1,000 bags of wheat arrived and stocks were directly offloaded at the mills.

Mill delivery was at Rs 1,585 while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,590 .

Dara wheat and flour prices improved by Rs 55 and Rs 65 , respectively, over the last 10 days and the market is getting support from strong consumer demand due to the ongoing festival season, said market experts.

Wheat may continue to rule around current levels for the next couple of days.

A negative tone was witnessed on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange on Friday.

Wheat for November delivery dropped by Rs 6 and traded at Rs 1,601 with an open interest of 4,850 lots.

December contracts went down by Rs 3 and traded at Rs 1,634 .

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

In the spot market, the grain dropped by Rs 30 and traded at Rs 1,525 .

Flour Prices

Following rising domestic demand, flour moved up by Rs 30 and quoted at Rs 1,830.

On the other hand, chokar was unchanged at Rs 1,270-90 a quintal.
