

Farmers' seminar at TNAU

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, Hyderabad, will jointly host a farmers' seminar on 'Hi-Tech Cultivation of Sugarcane and Tissue Culture Banana' here on Tuesday. According to a release, it will be inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor of TNAU K. Ramasamy.

Training in bee keeping at TNAU

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University will organise a training in bee keeping on November 6 on the university premises.

According to a university release, hands-on training will be imparted in identification of bee species and social organisation of bees, rearing Indian bees in boxes, general and seasonal management, bee forage, yield increase of crops through cross pollination, honey extraction and processing, enemies and diseases of bees and their management.

Interested candidates have to reach the Department of Agricultural Entomology before 9 a.m.

The fee of Rs. 250 has to be remitted.

The training is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Certificate

A certificate will be given at the end of the training. Candidates can call 0422-6611214, or e-mail to entomology@tnau.ac.in for details.

Government should pay insurance premium: farmers

The State government should pay the crop insurance premium of farmers while they avail loans from nationalised banks and primary agricultural cooperative societies in Perambalur district, said the district unit of Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam.

In a resolution passed at its general body meeting here, the association said there was no point in insisting on payment of premium when the insurance amount did not make up for the loss suffered by farmers. The meeting, presided over by P. Manickam, district president, wanted the Centre to modify the weather-linked crop insurance scheme, now in vogue in Perambalur, to benefit individual farmers. At present, insurance is paid to farmers based on weather data. Farmers wondered how insurance could be paid on the basis of rainfall data

for different segments of the same district when the entire State had been declared drought hit.

Pointing out that the procurement price for milk had not been revised in the last two years, the association called upon the State government to increase the prices by Rs. 5 per litre for cow's milk, and Rs. 7 a litre for buffalo's milk, taking into consideration increase in production cost and fodder prices. The forum wanted the State government to call for tripartite talks for revising procurement price for sugarcane. The Union government should revise the fair and remunerative price for sugarcane for 2013-14 crushing season to Rs. 2,500 a tonne.

By another resolution, the association demanded exemption from obtaining no-objection certificate from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for scooping silt from ponds and tanks for farm use.

'Insurance coverage does not make up for the loss'

Sugarcane farmers meet CM; demand support price

Ask him to convene tripartite meeting to discuss the issue before Deepavali

A group of sugar cane farmers on Monday met Chief Minister N. Rangasamy here, demanding him to announce the support price for sugar cane for the year 2012-13.

The farmers, who barged into the Chief Minister's office when he was holding discussion with the Electricity Minister Thiagarajan and officials, told him that the government was yet to announce sugarcane support price for the canes procured by the State owned Pudukcherry Sugar mill. They also asked him to convene the tripartite meeting to discuss the issue before Deepavali.

After listening to their demands and grievances, Mr. Rangasamy told them that his government was following a liberal approach as far as cane procurement price was concerned. It was offering more price for sugarcane than the neighbouring States. Pointing out the poor financial condition faced by the sugar mill, he said the government would consider their demand at the appropriate time.

A few farmers, who were not satisfied with the answer, entered into an argument with him. They told him that the farmers should not be held responsible for the continuous loss accrued by the mill which was primarily due to the higher salary for employees, over employment and many other reasons.

Visibly upset with the arguments of the farmers, Mr. Rangasamy hurriedly left the Assembly building.

Farm ponds converted into fish ponds

Officials say it will increase the supplementary income of farmers

A couple of farm ponds set up under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the district have been converted into fish ponds for fetching additional revenue to the farmers.

The ponds built at Ulavayal in Kulathur Nayackarpatti village panchayat in Gandarvakottai union and Manamadai village in Sengamedu village panchayat in Karambakudi union were converted into fish ponds. High quality fishes developed at the Fish Rearing Centre in Thattamanaipatti were let out into the ponds on Saturday.

The ponds were set up at an expenditure of Rs. 93,000 each. The pond was developed with a length of 25 metres and 15 metres wide.

Three types of fishes were reared at the ponds. The farmers would be able to harvest the fish in six to seven months. Each fish now weighs between 500 gram and 700 gram and at the time of harvest would weigh anywhere between 150 and 200 kg, bringing adequate profit to the farmers, he said. The Collector appealed to farmers to ensure that the water level in the ponds had been maintained.

📌 **25m x 15 m ponds built at a cost of Rs. 93,000 each**

📌 **Fish can be harvested in six to seven months**

Farmers demand more compensation



Farmers from Bellary during a protest rally in Dharwad on Monday.

Farmers from Bellary taluk held a protest rally and staged a demonstration outside the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB), against the alleged irregularities by officials in disbursing compensation for land

acquired from them.

The rally began from the Deputy Commissioner's office to the KIADB office. Farmers from Siddanahalli, Kolagal, and Venipura, gathered at the Deputy Commissioner's office and demanded the government enhance the compensation.

The farmers said the government had acquired 4,761 acres of land to set up Brahmi Steel Company and had given a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 8 lakh per acre. However, a similar plot was acquired in the region for setting up R.S. Mittal Steel Company and a compensation of Rs. 12 lakh to Rs. 16 lakh per acre was given for it.

The protesters alleged the government had been irregular in disbursing land compensation. The farmers further stated that even after repeated appeals made to the KIADB, the officials

had not hiked the compensation. Hence, they had filed a writ petition at the High Court Bench in Dharwad. The court directed the board to pay compensation on par with that provided by R.S. Mittal Steel Company. Unfortunately, the KIADB officials have not responded to court orders, they said. They warned of intensifying the protest if officials failed to comply with court orders.

Integrated farming for small farmers being planned: CM



*Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Gadag Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee in Gadag on Monday.—
PHOTO: SHANKAR GURIKAR*

integrated farming.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah made this announcement during the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Gadag Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee here on Monday. Mr. Siddaramaiah said nearly 85 per cent farmers had small holdings and the government wanted to help them in making their farming profitable. "I have asked Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda to come with a policy on integrated farming. We want to ensure farming becomes profitable," he said.

The Chief Minister said the State government had decided to set up an Agricultural Prices Commission to ensure farmers had their say in fixing of prices. The structure and composition of the commission was being worked out.

Admitting that the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) had not become a sellers' market yet, depriving farmers of fair prices for their crops, he said steps would be taken to keep brokers away. He took a dig at former Chief Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy and B.S. Yeddyurappa who wanted to bring amendments in the law to facilitate even brokers becoming APMC directors. Mr. Gowda said there was a need for improving the APMC system and that the APMCs were yet to raise their voices in favour of farmers.

Minister for Horticulture and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) Shamanur Shivashankarappa appealed to merchants operating in the APMC yards to pay their taxes promptly.

Power sought

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister and district-in-charge H.K. Patil sought round-the-clock power for Gadag district, as the district contributed 8 to 10 per cent of the total energy produced in the State, through wind energy units.

He sought additional funds of Rs. 10 crore for building community toilets. On the occasion, the Chief Minister unveiled the busts of Gadag APMC founder Fakirappa Laxmeshwar and cooperative leader K.H. Patil and released a souvenir.

BJP farmers' wing stages protest

The Bharatiya Janata Party Raith Morcha staged a dharna in front of Clock Tower against the "anti-farmer policies" of the Union and State governments here on Monday. President of the Morcha Devadas Hebbar said that the cattle were dying due to foot and mouth disease in different parts of the State. The lack of response of the State government had affected not just agricultural but also dairy farming. Farmers were facing a lot of hardship. The prices of fertilizers had increased four times from 2007 to 2013. The United Progressive Alliance government should waive farm loans taken from nationalised banks and cooperative banks. Farmers should get interest-free loans up to Rs. 5 lakh. The Union Government should take immediate measures to reduce the price of fertilizers.

Flood fury unprecedented, farmers tell Kiran

CM addresses a review meeting at the Agricultural College of Engineering in Bapatla



Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy interacts with women at Jillellamudi village in Bapatla mandal in Guntur district on Monday. MLA Gade Venkata Reddy is seen. — photo: T. Vijaya Kumar

Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy on Monday assured flood-affected families that financial assistance would be provided by the State government to

build pucca houses under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) scheme.

Mr. Reddy said that SC/ST beneficiaries would be provided Rs.1 lakh and others Rs.70,000 to help families rebuild their homes.

The Chief Minister also asked the Revenue Department to complete the enumeration of losses to properties and crops within a week and cautioned the District Collectors to monitor the enumeration exercise carefully and see that no mistakes cropped up.

He was addressing a review meeting at the Agricultural College of Engineering here after visiting the flood ravaged villages in Bapatla mandal that have borne the brunt of torrential rains over the last week. Mr. Reddy, who reached Vedullapalli by road, inspected

Murkondapadu and Jillellamudi villages and then distributed provisions to families at Srinivasarao Nagar.

As the convoy entered Jillellamudi, one could witness the havoc wreaked by the floods. Lush green paddy fields have been flattened, roads badly damaged and trees uprooted as the village was completely marooned for three days.

Villagers said that they had never seen flood of this magnitude. "We remained cut off from the rest of the world for three days. Thanks to the Amma Ashram, we are able to spend days without much difficulty," said Mallikarjuna Rao, a resident of the village.

The district administration evacuated 400 families living in BC and SC colonies with the help of NDRF personnel who used lifeboats to evacuate them. Mr. Reddy complimented Collector S. Suresh Kumar for monitoring the rescue operations personally.

The CM tried to reach out to the villagers assuring them that the State government would stand by them in the crisis, helping them to stand on their feet. He asked the Collector to distribute 10 kg of rice each to the affected families and said that Rs.2,500 would be given to each family to buy clothes.

YSRC to pressure UPA govt. for farm loan waiver



Lending an ear:YSRC honorary president Y.S. Vijayalakshmi interacts with paddy growers affected by the cyclone at Narayanapuram in West Godavari district on Monday.- PHOTO: AVG Prasad

The YSRC honorary president Y.S. Vijayalakshmi on Monday promised to exert pressure on the UPA government for waiver of agricultural loans in the cyclone-affected areas. She visited farm fields ravaged by floods and the affected

victims at Narayanapuram in Unguturu and Duvva in Tanuku mandal of West Godavari district. She also visited Goteru and Kanteru drains which caused floods, submerging farm fields downstream in view of their poor condition.

She waded through the flood water to reach out to the victims and lend them a patient hearing at Narayanapuram. The affected farmers showed her bundles of damaged paddy plants with a request for help. She observed that Tanuku and Achanta mandals bore the brunt of the cyclonic ravages on a large scale.

Ms. Vijayalakshmi said it was highly impossible for the farmers to bail themselves out from the debt burden in the face of extensive damage the floods have caused to their farm fields. It was a fit case for waiver of farm loans as such a measure also would provide a soothing effect to the victims in real terms, she said. Ms. Vijayalakshmi appealed to the government to take up steps to procure discoloured paddy from the growers in the flood-hit areas by relaxing procurement norms, keeping in mind the scale of devastation. She said the

Nandamuru (new) aqueduct across the Yarrakalva, constructed with Rs. 450 crore during the period of her husband late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy as Chief Minister, remained useless. Consequently, thousands of acres of farm fields downstream Bhimavaram and those located in the upper reaches up to Nallajarla became vulnerable to floods every time, she said.

Farmers heave a sigh of relief

The heavy rain that hit the district contentiously for seven days provided a respite to the people of East Godavari district on Monday. It was a sunny day after a week's gap and the farmers heaved a sigh of relief in the absence of rain. The officials of Revenue and Agriculture departments swung into action to assess the loss incurred to various sections of people due to the continuous downpour. Leaders of various political parties continued to visit in the low-lying areas. Rajya Sabha Member from the TDP C.M. Ramesh visited in the city along with the party leaders and listened to the vows of the victims.

A review meeting on the impact of the heavy rains would be conducted in the Collectorate on Tuesday under the aegis of Minister Tota Narasimham.

Chilli farmers go on rampage

Accuse traders of refusing to buy their produce on 'unjustified grounds'



Backlash: Angry chilli farmers attacking commission agent's shop at the vegetable market in Khammam on Monday. —PHOTO: G.N. RAO

A group of irate chilli farmers went on a rampage, damaging furniture in front of some of the shops of the commission merchants at the vegetable market yard near the DRDA office here in the early hours of Monday.

According to sources, the simmering resentment among the farmers against the alleged exploitation by a network of

'errant' commission agents and 'greedy' traders at the market sparked violent protest by a section of farmers. The chilli farmers were sore over the traders' alleged refusal to buy their produce on "unjustified grounds".

The trouble broke out on Sunday night when the traders allegedly offered low price for the chilli produce much below the prevailing rate of Rs. 1,350 per quintal. The farmers, who brought their chilli produce from far off places including the neighbouring mandals in

Warangal and Nalgonda district in large quantities, sought remunerative price for their produce, in vain.

When the traders and commission agents abruptly left the market after downing their shutters without honouring their commitment to buy the chilli produce on Sunday night, the farmers turned impatient.

Earlier, the angry farmers spilled on to the streets and staged a dharna on the bypass road around midnight. A section of them ransacked the furniture, including some plastic trays, kept in front of the closed shops at the market in the early hours of Monday. About 300 quintals of chilli got piled up at the yard leaving the hapless farmers in quandary.

“The traders are so merciless that they made us to wait here the whole night without purchasing our chilli produce,” deplored Banothu Hemanthu, a farmer of Burkacharla in Nalgonda district. “We don’t need the sympathy of the leaders and officials. We just want remunerative price for our chilli produce,” he said.

Benami transactions alleged

“The commission agents, in connivance with the greedy traders, are minting money by offering us meagre prices and exporting our chilli at an exorbitant price through benami transactions,” charged Bavsingh, a farmer of Maripeda in Warangal district.

Deputy Speaker Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Collector I. Srinivas Sri Naresh visited the market yard.

Collector’s assurance to farmers

The Collector assured the aggrieved farmers that criminal action would be taken against the merchants if they were found guilty of misusing their licences and cheating the farmers.

Mr. Vikramarka said the district administration would initiate appropriate steps to purchase the entire chilli produce at remunerative price.

☐ ***Chilli traders offer price much below the prevailing rate of Rs. 1,350 per quintal***

☐ ***“They made us wait the whole night without purchasing our produce,” complains a farmer***

Government urged to come to the rescue of rain-hit farmers

Minister for Minor Irrigation T.G. Venkatesh reviewed the relief measures taken to provide succour to flood-hit people in Kurnool district. Mr. Venkatesh told officials that the government was committed to providing relief to farmers as well as the general public.

Enumeration sought

Mr. Venkatesh asked the officials to complete the enumeration at the earliest so that the government could take a decision on the quantum of help required. Collector C. Sudharsan Reddy, Joint Collector K. Kannababu and others were present. Meanwhile, the CPI (M) District Committee urged the government to come to the rescue of farmers who suffered huge losses on account of torrential rains.

Crops damaged

Talking to reporters, district secretary K. Prabhakar Reddy and T. Shadrak said crops on 90,000 acres were damaged in the rains. Paddy, maize, cotton and castor were damaged badly in 16 mandals. Unless the government rolled out substantial relief measures, farmers would not be able to recover their losses. Mr. Shadrak demanded Rs. 10,000 as compensation for paddy and groundnut and Rs. 15,000 for cotton. The CPI (M) deplored the sudden transfer of SP K. Raghurami Reddy saying he was shifted under pressure from political bigwigs.

Cane farmers stage dharna at Kovur sugar factory

The inordinate delay in payment of dues to the sugarcane farmers has caused them to launch an agitation programme by organising dharnas in front of the Kovur cooperative sugar factory located at Kovur near here on Monday.

The cane farmers from different villages in the surrounding mandals took part in the protest programme. They demanded immediate steps for the payment of dues to the tune of Rs. 7 crore to the farmers, which are kept pending by the management for the last eight months. Speaking on the occasion, Nellore District Cheruku Rythula Sangham district president Jonnalagadda Venkama Raju said that several instances of corruption in the management of the Kovur sugar factory has led to the problems and difficulties at present. He wanted the Government to order a probe into the corruption charges levelled against the factory's managing director. Mr. Raju deplored that the situation at the sugar factory had gone from bad to worse, as the management did not pay arrears to the tune of Rs. 5 crore to the nearly 500 employees and workers. They have been suffering due to non-payment of arrears for many months now.

A farmers' day out at 'Kisan Mela'



Efficient machines: Farmers take a look at the farm equipment on display at the 'Kisan Mela' organised at the ANGRAU's Regional Agricultural Research Station in Tirupati on Monday.—PHOTO: K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

In an attempt to educate the farmers on the farm mechanisation in the backdrop of steady rise in the demand for high agricultural production and increasing labour costs, a 'Kisan Mela' was organised at the Regional Agricultural

Research Station (RARS) here on Monday.

It was a farmers' day out as there was an impressive display of modern farming machinery at

the stalls showcasing varieties of seeds, fruits, farm products, fertilizers and information on the latest farm practices. Farmers should be briefed regularly on the new farm equipments and technological innovations, opined R. Sarada Jayalakshmi Devi, a Board member of the Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University.

Farmers now hold fewer apprehensions about using machines for their regular agricultural activities, said T. Giridhara Krishna, Associate Director of Research at the RARS. "Farmers have already realised that machines work faster and more efficiently, resulting in higher produce.

For example, with the help of an eight-row paddy transplanter, a farmer can cover nine acres per day," he added.

Veterinary component

Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University's (SVVU) Registrar P. Sudhakar Reddy advocated the need to include a 'veterinary component' in the farm practices. "Farmers should always have an alternative to fall back on and to compensate for losses, such as raising cattle" he added.

Farmers also echoed the views of experts saying that mechanisation has made their lives easier. "The works get done faster with fewer labourers," said Subramanyam Naidu of Musalipedu Village in Yerpedu Mandal. "Even the farmers, who are not in a position to afford such equipment, can borrow them on rent," he added.

Energy efficiency

Meanwhile, the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) has taken up the task of sensitising farmers on optimum usage of machinery.

"Farmers seldom care about maintaining their equipment. For example, air filters in the engines get clogged faster in agricultural lands because of dust. If they clean it periodically, the engine would function more efficiently and consume less fuel," said K.V.S.S. Narayana Raju, External Faculty of the PCRA. "Here, we explain the modalities to be followed for diesel machines and other farm equipment to the farmers," he said.

Terrace farming

Few days ago, I happened to visit a place where terrace farming was practised. My family was impressed by the organic vegetables which were produced there. So, we started terrace farming by making coco peat, compost and neem cake.

I began to spend time with the plants instead of watching television. Initially, due to abundant rainfall some of the vegetables like tomatoes began to rot.

Some small insects began to feed on the plants. We overcame this problem by spraying a homemade pesticide made of ginger, garlic and Asafoetida on the plants.

Now, we are happy when we harvest vegetables like spinach, radish, beetroot, tomato and chilli. We are delighted when we eat the organic vegetables from our garden.

So, why don't you also start terrace farming?

Delhi government selling onions at Rs.50-55 per kg

Under attack from the Opposition over skyrocketing onion prices, the Delhi Government on Monday started selling the kitchen staple through 125 mobile vans across the city at Rs.50-55 per kg.

Food and Civil Supplies Department officials said that the mobile vans would be selling onions at over 500 points across the city.

President of the Delhi Agricultural Produce Market Committee Rajendra Sharma said the city received a supply of 2,000 tonnes of onion on Monday against the average daily consumption of around 900 tonnes.

“There is no problem of availability of onions in Delhi. Retail prices will definitely come down as supply has improved significantly,” he said. The retail rate for onions continued to remain between Rs.80-90 at various markets across the city.

With high onion prices threatening to become a hot political issue ahead of the December 4 Assembly polls, Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit had taken a number of initiatives, including directly procuring onions from Maharashtra and Rajasthan, to stabilise rates.

Ms. Dikshit, who had come to power after defeating the then BJP government in 1998 by riding on the high onion prices issue, had said on Saturday that the government would sell onions at Rs.55/kg in the city from Monday.

Foot-and-mouth disease claims 156 head of cattle in district

At least 156 head of cattle have died of foot-and-mouth disease in the district during the past one month.

Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services B.S. Jambgi said here on Monday that as many as 2,800 cattle had been affected by the disease so far.

The incidence of the disease was found mostly in cross-breed cows and young bullocks, which had migrated, or where the farmers refused vaccination earlier.

He said the Department takes up vaccination twice every year.

Rs.2,203-cr. crop loan disbursed

Farmers have received loan assistance to the tune of over Rs.2,203 crore so far, according to Cooperation Minister ‘Sellur’ K. Raju.

The loans have been disbursed through primary agricultural cooperative societies chasing a target of Rs 4,500 crore for the fiscal year 2013-14, the minister said. Farmers in the district alone had received Rs.49.53 crore out of the target of Rs. 90 crore for this year.

The loans were disbursed through 182 primary agricultural cooperative societies, with interest waiver for prompt repayment.

The minister was addressing an event organised by the 102-year-old Madurai District Central Cooperative (MDCC) Bank here on Sunday to grant bonus and other incentives worth Rs.15.49 lakh to its employees, as well as loans worth Rs.3.64 crore to the bank's customers.

A press release quoted the minister as saying that the State government had forfeited interest worth Rs. 5.36 crore for crop loans that were repaid promptly by 23,274 farmers since the financial year 2011-12. Further, compensation worth Rs. 23.28 crore had been given to farmers who suffered crop damage.

While crop loans worth Rs. 65.67 crore were disbursed to farmers in the district in the financial year 2011-12, the figure stood at Rs. 81.50 crore in 2012-13. Further, 3,888 Dalit members of the cooperative societies were given crop loans worth Rs.21.39 crore in the last three years, the release said. The short-term crop loan of Rs.9.84 crore given to 2,058 farmers in the district was converted to mid-term loans, paving the way for the grant of fresh loans worth Rs.1.25 crore to 314 farmers.

In terms of crop insurance, 997 banana and sugarcane farmers received Rs. 110 crore. The minister lauded the MDCC bank for growing rapidly since its inception on July 9, 1912 with a modest share capital of Rs.13,340 and fixed deposits worth Rs.1.47 lakh.

Today, the bank boasts a current share capital of Rs.35 crore, with fixed deposits worth Rs.741 crore.

The bank has 32 branches in Madurai district and 10 in Theni district. It has been functioning as a funding agency for primary agricultural cooperative banks in the two districts after obtaining licence from the Reserve Bank of India in 2011.

Collector L. Subramanian; S.T.K. Jaggaiyan, special representative for the Government of Tamil Nadu in New Delhi; Members of the Legislative Assembly A.K. Bose, K. Tamilarasan and R. Annadurai and MDCC bank president K. Duraipandian and Managing Director M. Dhanalakshmi participated.

TDP demands transparency in survey of crop loss

Telugu Desam Party has alleged that farmers had informed the party representatives who visited some rain-hit mandals that officials did not enumerate crop loss correctly and also did not identify the affected farmers. However, officials estimated the crop damages in 9690 hectares. It was not true, said Dwarapureddy Jagadish, the party district president. He demanded that enumeration be done transparently and displayed names of affected farmers at panchayat offices.

In a memorandum addressed to district Collector, Mr. Jagadish said that paddy, maize, cotton, sugarcane, banana and vegetables were damaged in large extent.

Restructure crop loans, banks told

After cyclone and floods damaged crop fields in the State, the State government on Monday moved to restructure and re-phase crop loans.

At a hurriedly convened meeting of State Level Bankers' Committee, Additional Chief Secretary and Finance Secretary U. N. Behera asked bankers to consider converting short-term loan into medium term loan at 2 per cent per annum for farmers. This would enable the farmers to utilise fresh crop loan in view of recent cyclone and flood, Mr. Behera said. All banks including commercial banks, regional rural banks and co-operative banks were advised to restructure and re-phase the existing loans in affected areas as per RBI guidelines. Besides, banks were urged to give importance to fresh loan to victims for resumption of normal business.

Focusing on rabi crop loan finance, Mr. Behera called upon all banks to achieve the annual target of crop loan and term loan of agriculture, including allied sector, positively.

Banks were also asked to implement RBI guidelines with regard to rehabilitation package in respect of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The State Level Bankers' Committee resolved to expedite the credit delivery to affected people by organising special camps by the line departments of the government in coordination with the banks. All banks were advised to issue necessary instructions to the branch-level functionaries for implementation of action plans that emerged at the meeting. It was also decided to hold monthly review meeting at the State level as well as district level for close monitoring of progress of implementation of relief and rehabilitation measures to be undertaken.

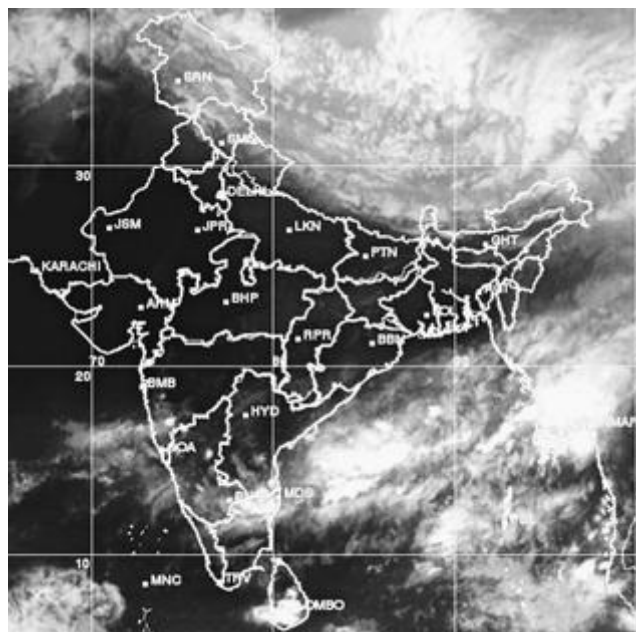
Despite the emphasis laid on crop loan, commercial banks and other public sector banks have failed to achieve targeted disbursement of agricultural loan in the State.

The State had set a target disbursement of crop loan of Rs. 13832.31 crore from 41 scheduled banks. However, after kharif season, banks had disbursed only Rs. 5226.12 crore registering an achievement of 37.78 per cent.

The achievement of public sector banks in crop loan was 24.45 per cent, private sector banks (18.36 per cent), two regional rural banks (27.08 per cent), commercial banks (25.26 per cent) and cooperative banks (48.42 per cent).

Taking exceptions to dismal rate of agriculture loan disbursement by banks during kharif season, the government had even threatened to drop several banks from the list of banks eligible for investment of government and public sector fund. This flood had damaged 1.98 lakh hectares of crop area.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on October 28.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	31	23	1	50
Arogyavaram	29	20	0	152
Bapatla	30	25	tr	497
Calingapatnam	26	24	47	922
Gannavaram	30	24	0	410
Hanamkonda	31	23	0	284
Hyderabad AP	30	21	0	239
Kakinada	27	25	4	620
Khammam	33	25	0	98
Kavali	31	24	0	343
Kurnool	29	22	5	86
Mahabubnagar	29	21	0	163
Machilipatnam	29	23	1	381
Nandyal	30	23	1	73
Narasapur	28	25	1	606
Nellore	31	26	0	270
Nizamabad	31	22	0	106
Ongole	30	24	0	479
Ramagundam	32	22	0	201
Tirupathi AP	31	25	0	232
Tuni	27	24	2	469
Vizag AP	27	24	12	555
Vizag	27	23	22	511

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	26	17	0	529
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Bengaluru AP	29	20	53	107
Bengaluru	28	21	27	97
Belgaum AP	28	20	0	60
Bellary	30	21	0	50
Bijapur	29	20	1	110
Chitradurga	28	20	1	53
Chickmagalur	27	17	0	30
Chintamani	28	21	0	44
Gadag	28	20	0	88
Gulbarga	33	22	0	35
Hassan	30	20	0	83
Honavar	27	22	12	222
Karwar	27	23	4	167
Madikeri	25	17	0	185
Mangalore AP	31	23	0	234
Mysore	30	19	0	105
Mandya	29	20	0	125
Panambur	31	24	0	200
Raichur	29	21	1	102
Shirali	30	24	tr	404

KERALA

Alappuzha	30	24	0	133
Kannur	32	23	0	286
Kochi AP	32	22	0	313
Kottayam	34	22	0	367
Kozhikode	33	23	0	164
Punalur	33	21	0	410
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	31	24	0	117
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	33	24	0	213
Vellanikkara	32	21	0	346

TAMIL NADU

Adiramapattinam	35	23	0	49
Chennai	33	26	0	156
Chennai AP	34	24	19	223
Coimbatore AP	31	20	0	80
Coonoor	21	12	0	130
Cuddalore	35	26	0	73
Dharmapuri	32	19	0	111
Kanyakumari	31	24	0	26
Karaikal	32	26	0	114
Kodaikanal	20	10	0	127
Madurai AP	36	23	0	182
Nagapattinam	33	25	0	99
Palayamkottai	37	24	0	86
Pamban	32	27	0	122

Parangipettai	33	27	0	144
Puducherry	35	26	3	64
Salem	33	22	0	130
Thanjavur	32	27	0	80
Tiruchi AP	34	24	0	128
Tirupattur	31	19	0	123
Tiruttani	33	25	0	195
Tondi	32	26	0	98
Tuticorin	33	25	0	23
Ooty	21	8	0	177
Valparai	26	11	0	231
Vellore	33	25	3	76
LAKSHADWEEP				
Amini Divi	31	23	0	75
Minicoy	32	23	0	43
OTHER STATIONS				
Kolkata (Alipore)	27	22	0	523
Mumbai	33	27	0	66
New Delhi	30	17	0	73

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

RAIN IN PARTS OF COASTAL A.P.

CHENNAI: Rainfall occurred at a few places over coastal Andhra Pradesh. Isolated rainfall occurred over Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Rayalaseema. Mainly dry weather prevailed over Telangana and dry weather prevailed over Kerala and Lakshadweep. The chief amounts of rainfall recorded in centimetres are:

Tamil Nadu: Mahabalipuram (Kancheepuram Dist) 11, Uthiramerur (Kancheepuram Dist) 7.

Andhra Pradesh : Ranasthalam (dist Srikakulam) 16, Komarada (dist Vizianagaram) 13.

Karnataka: Munirabad (Koppal dt) 8.

They were appreciably above normal at many places over Tamil Nadu, at one or two places over Kerala, appreciably to markedly below normal at most places over coastal Karnataka, at many places over coastal A.P., at a few places over north interior Karnataka, Rayalaseema and were nearly normal over the rest of the region.

Forecast (valid till Wednesday morning): Rain will occur at a few places over north T.N., Puducherry, coastal A.P. and coastal Karnataka. Isolated rain may occur over south T.N., Telangana, Rayalaseema, interior Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Tuesday, Oct 29

Max Min

31° | 26°

Rain: 0

Sunrise: 06:01

Humidity: 79

Sunset: 05:43

Wind: normal

Barometer: 1012

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Wednesday, Oct 30

Max Min

33° | 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Oct 31

Nov 1

Nov 2

Nov 3

Nov 4



33° | 25°

Cloudy

27° | 26°

Overcast

27° | 26°

Overcast

27° | 26°

Overcast

27° | 26°

Overcast

Delhiites question quality of subsidised onions

Even as the Delhi government is selling onions at cheaper rates in mobile vans across the city to check the rising prices of the vegetable, residents allege they are unfit for consumption. The government increased the number of such vans to over 150 on Monday from 80 on Saturday.

Onions are still selling between Rs. 70 and Rs. 90 per kg in retail outlets in different parts of the Capital.

“The onions sold in the mobile vans are not fit for consumption. They look rotten and cannot be used in cooking. What is the point of selling them cheap if they can’t be bought? We are forced to buy from the retail market where they are sold for Rs. 75,” said Vinita Behl, a resident of Malviya Nagar.

Sarabjit Singh, a resident of Kailash Colony, said, "The prices in these vans may be less than what they ask for in the market, but the quality is so bad that it's better to buy one good onion in retail than four bad ones from here."

Senior officials rejected the claims. "It is absolutely untrue that the onions are of poor quality. They are the same quality as sold in the mandis. People are very happy with the onions especially since they are getting it at Rs. 50 per kilo," said Haroon Yusuf, food and supplies minister.

Onion dealers and traders backed the minister's claim and said the government had conducted a thorough recce.

"Delhi government officials have been doing a scan and checking our onion stocks. Each van has the capacity to accommodate about 4-5 tonnes of onions. If more than 150 vans sell across the city, it will be sufficient to meet basic requirements. The onions provided are coming in from Nasik and Alwar," said Shrikant Misra, chief onion trader at Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC).

Anupam Joshi, a resident of Khirki Extension, said: "There are no specific timings when these mobile vans ply and those who have bought from them said that onions are of very poor quality. So we are not even bothering to try the vans out."

Meanwhile, the BJP said it was better to pre-empt such a price rise. "If voted to power, I will set in place an infrastructure to monitor food prices constantly. Professionals would alert me whenever there is abnormal upward movement. I will take emergency steps even before the emergency occurs," said Harsh Vardhan, BJP's chief ministerial candidate.



NEW SOY FLOUR MAY HELP BOOST MEMORY, CUT DEMENTIA RISK



Scientists have developed a new soy-based flour product which they believe can improve memory in older age and reduce the risk of dementia.

The flour originates from tempe - a fermented soy-based product similar to tofu used widely in Asian cooking. Tempe contains phytoestrogens (plant based hormones) and several B vitamins and has been shown in studies to be associated with improved memory function among the older population.

Eef Hogervorst, Professor of biological psychology in Loughborough University's School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, has been working with her PhD student Atik Irsan and

colleagues at the University of Indonesia and Bogor Agricultural University to develop a flour that retains the folate and cobalamin found in tempe.

"Our follow-up studies have shown that eating more tempe helps improve the memory of older people in Indonesia. We also found older rats who were given tempe had improved memory and fewer markers associated with dementia, such as plaques on the brain," Hogervorst said. "Tempe can be chewy, which may make it more difficult for older people to eat it. By turning it into flour it gives us more ways of administering it; we can now use it in a liquid form, making it more accessible to the older population – those who would benefit most from tempe.

"We previously found that eating lots of tofu (which also contains phytoestrogens) in Indonesian elderly was associated with worse memory, similar to other studies in older Japanese Americans. "It may be the case that the folate and cobalamin in tempe protect, allowing phytoestrogens to exert protective effects on the older brain.

"The next step is to see if we can repeat our initial findings in a Western population. If it works, it will be a major step towards preventing memory decline in old age," Hogervorst said. The scientists have patented the flour's manufacturing process, and plan to test it in nursing home settings in the UK and Indonesia to validate earlier findings of pilot studies.

Business Standard

Cardamom up by 2.1% on spot demand



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

[Cardamom prices](#) up by 2.12% to Rs 758 per kg in futures trade today after speculators built up positions supported by rising demand at spot markets.

Besides, tight stocks position in the spot market following lower arrivals from producing regions also

influenced prices.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in November rose by Rs 15.80, or 2.12%, to Rs 758 per kg, with a business turnover of 877 lots.

The spice for delivery in December increased by Rs 7.50, or 0.99%, to Rs 762.40 per kg with a trading volume of 253 lots.

Traders said firm demand in the physical market against restricted arrivals from producing belts mainly influenced cardamom prices at futures trade.

Potato 1.1% on subdued demand



Traders offloaded their holdings at existing higher levels tracking subdued demand in spot market on falling demand

[Potato](#) futures [prices](#) fell by Rs 9.50 to Rs 871.50 per quintal today as participants trimmed positions amid sluggish demand in the spot market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for March contracts fell by Rs 9.50, or 1.07%, to Rs 871.50 per quintal, with a business volume of 34 lots.

The potato for delivery in April declined by Rs 6, or 0.71%, to Rs 841 per quintal in 3 lots.

Traders offloaded their holdings at existing higher levels tracking subdued demand in spot market on falling demand.

Chana up by 2.7% on rising demand



Restricted arrivals of the commodity in the physical market, tracking a pick up in festival demand

[Chana](#) rose by Rs 86 to Rs 3,150 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, tracking a pick up in festival demand.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), chana for delivery in November rose by Rs 86, or 2.81%, to Rs 3,150 per quintal, with an open interest of 96,110 lots.

Similarly, chana for delivery in December traded higher by Rs 85, or 2.72%, to Rs 3,209 per quintal, with an open interest of 61,210 lots.

Traders said speculators increased their holdings on hopes of rise in spot market demand against restricted arrivals of the commodity in the physical market.

They said increased enquiries from millers on hopes of some improvement in local demand gpt the festival season further supported the uptrend.

Soybean futures improve on global cues



Marketmen said a firming trend in international markets mainly led the rise in soyabean prices

[Soybean prices](#) rose by Rs 80 to Rs 3,920 per quintal in futures trade today following brisk buying by traders, driven by firm overseas cue.

Marketmen said a firming trend in international markets mainly led the rise in soyabean prices here in future

trading.

Rising price of other edible oils in domestic markets ahead of "Deepavali" festivals also supported the trading sentiment, they said.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), soybean for March contract rose by Rs 80, or 2.08%, to Rs 3,920 per quintal, with an open interest of 2,420 lots.

Most active near December contract rose by Rs 70, or 1.86%, to Rs 3,825 per quintal, having an open interest of 89,880 lots.

November contract gained Rs 64, or 1.72%, to Rs 3,789 per quintal, clocking an open interest of 83,920 lots.

Castorseed up by 1.1% on fresh buying



Marketmen said restricted supply and strong demand in physical markets mainly attributed the hike

[Castorseed prices](#) improved by Rs 41 to Rs 3,631 per quintal in futures trade today on the back of emerging physical markets cue.

Marketmen said restricted supply and strong demand in physical markets mainly attributed the hike in prices

here in future markets.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), Castorseed prices for November contract hardened by Rs 41, or 1.14%, to Rs 3,631 per quintal, having an open interest of 97,280 lots.

Most active near January contract rose by Rs 42, or 1.09%, at Rs 3,890 per quintal, with an open interest of 1,38,000 lots.

Coriander gain by 1.7% on spot demand



Speculators enlarged their positions supported by rising demand in the spot markets

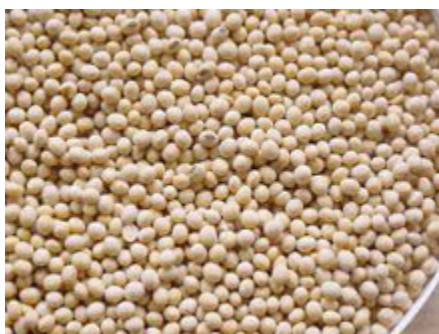
[Coriander prices](#) rose by 1.74% to Rs 6,901 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions supported by rising demand in the spot markets.

At the [National Commodity and Derivative Exchange](#), coriander for December delivery gained Rs 118, or 1.74%, to Rs 6,901 per quintal with an open interest of 8,640 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in November traded higher by Rs 111, or 1.68%, to Rs 6,711 per quintal, with an open interest of 18,400 lots.

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

Soyabean output estimates revised downwards by 7.5 lakh tonne



Excess rain has hit crop yields

Industry body [SOPA](#) has revised its [soyabean](#) production estimates downwards for the kharif season, by 7.5 lakh tonnes to 122.34 lakh tonnes, as excess [rain](#) has hit crop yields.

The Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA) has projected soyabean production of 122.34 lakh tonnes in its second estimates for kharif 2013 as against 129.83 lakh tonnes in the first estimates.

In 2012 kharif, soyabean production stood at 121.85 lakh tonnes.

"Due to excess and continuing rain during kharif season, Soybean yield has affected adversely," SOPA Spokesperson & Coordinator Rajesh Agrawal said in a statement.

The association has conducted a second crop survey during October 1-7 period and based on the data collected, it has revised the estimates downwards.

The productivity is likely to drop at 1,017 kg per hectare from 1,079 kg per hectare. The acreage stood at 120.32 lakh hectares during the kharif season of 2013-14.

SOPA has revised its production estimates downward to 56.14 lakh tonnes from 59.47 lakh tonnes in Madhya Pradesh.

In Maharashtra, the soyabean [output](#) is now seen at 46.45 lakh tonnes from 48.56 lakh tonnes in the first estimates, while in Rajasthan the production is likely to drop to 10.12 lakh tonnes from 12.17 lakh tonnes.

Chilli, jeera rise as demand picks up



Traders said buying support from retailers, stockists due to rising export demand mainly pushed up prices for both commodities

Red [chilli](#) and [jeera prices](#) rose up to Rs 300 per quintal in the national capital today largely following pick-up in [demand](#) from local parties as well as overseas enquiries.

Red chilli prices rose by Rs 300 to settle at Rs 7,000-12,500 per quintal.

Jeera common and jeera best quality also increased by Rs 100 each to conclude at Rs 13,100-13,300 and Rs 16,800-17,100 per quintal, respectively.

Traders said buying support from retailers and stockists due to rising [export demand](#), mainly pushed up chilli and jeera prices on the wholesale kirana market here.

Poor packaging eats Dussehri's market value



Expert claims the fruit could fetch almost 10 times its current value of Rs 10 a piece to growers with corrugated box packaging

The world famous [dussehri mango](#) of Lucknow would taste sweeter for growers with proper [packaging](#) and branding.

Dussehri growers in the mango belt of Lucknow, comprising Malihabad and Kakori, and other parts of Uttar Pradesh, could benefit immensely if proper packaging material, especially [corrugated box](#), is used for sorting at farms.

“Dussehri could fetch almost 10 times of its current value to growers with corrugated box packaging. While, [Alphonso](#) mango sells for almost Rs 1,200 kg at the start of season, dussehri goes for as cheap as Rs 10 a piece due to poor packaging,” Indian Institute of Packaging director N C Saha told Business Standard .

The Institute had started a project about 10 years ago in Malihabad for proper packaging of dussehri to enhance its market value. “However, the project could not take off due to lack of support and interest in the state,” he lamented.

Dussehri, which was also granted [Geographical Indication](#) (GI) registration in 2009, is known for its unique sweetness, texture and liling aroma. Situated on Lucknow-Hardoi highway, Malihabad town in Lucknow district is famous for mango plantations, especially dussehri.

The mango belts in UP, include Lucknow (Lucknow, Malihabad, Bakshi-ka-Talaab), Saharanpur and Sambhal-Amroha-Muzaffarnagar districts.

Lucknow mango belt spans 25,000 hectares. In 2013, UP mango production was estimated at about 1.5 million tonnes, much lower than 3.8 million tonnes last year.

Meanwhile, Saha demanded incentives for encouraging the packaging industry in UP.

The state imports over 80 of its total packaging requirement annually from other states, mainly Delhi and Mumbai. Kanpur has about 250 corrugated box manufacturing units. Some units are located in Lucknow as well.

The Institute is organising a national workshop on packaging of fresh and processed foods for cottage, micro, small and medium entrepreneurs here on Tuesday.

The domestic packaging industry is currently estimated at over Rs 1,25,000 crore and growing at 15 per cent annually.

UP sugar mills get warning



Executives detained in Bijnor on cane payment arrears, even as millers demand announcement of lower price

The struggling [sugar industry](#) in [Uttar Pradesh](#) got another jolt with officials of private sugar mills in Bijnor district being detained by the district administration over [sugarcane payment arrears](#).

The millers have labelled the development as “coercive measures from the state government”. The industry has declined so far to give their cane reserve area requirement and the cane commissioner is likely to start the process on last year’s reservation by each mill. While state mills have begun crushing, private mills have not; they want the state government to first decide on the cane price payable to farmers, which they’ve said is already far too high.

In Bijnor, anticipating arrests, several officials of mills in the area were said to have given resignations. A sugar industry official said most of these were in charge of repair and maintenance. “The next one month is crucial for getting the units ready for the season. But the strong-arm tactics being adopted by the district administration has stopped the maintenance activities in these factories,” he said.

Last year, the government raised the floor cane price (state advised price or SAP) to Rs 295 a quintal from Rs 255 a quintal in the previous year. The price, the industry contended, was lower than their average cost of production, and a supply glut led to massive cane payments arrears. The industry says the average cost of manufacturing sugar is of Rs 35 a kg and their average realisation is Rs 31 a kg. The spot price is now reported to have fallen to a five-year low of Rs 29 a kg.

“It looks difficult to commence crushing this season. We are expecting the state government to announce a cut in cane prices this season to make sugar manufacturing affordable,” said Sanjay Tapriya, chief financial officer of Simbhaoli Sugars Ltd.

Rahul Bhatnagar, principal secretary, sugar industry and cane development, told Business Standard on the Bijnor action: “The district magistrate can assess the situation and act accordingly. The sugarcane department has nothing to do with it.”

[UP sugar millers](#) want linking of the cane price to sugar prices. UP accounts for 30 per cent of India’s sugar output and supports a little over four million farmers’ families. The private mills have to clear arrears of Rs 2,400 crore for the 2012-13 crushing season, even as the current season has arrived.

“The cane commissioner would start issuing cane reservation orders in due course. At present, we have to consider the maturity of sugarcane. Due to late rains this year, the cane crop is not mature enough for optimal recovery,” said the secretary. A committee has been formed for ascertaining the cane price for this season. The committee would forward its recommendation to the government for vetting, before being sent to cabinet for approval.

Last year, the crushing had started after November 15, while the cane price was declared on December 7.

THE HINDU Business Line

Soyabean output seen lower

Mumbai, Oct. 28:

Soyabean Processors Association of India has lowered its outlook for this year’s soyabean production by six per cent to 101.7 lakh tonnes. The estimate has been made in its second estimate after ascertaining the damage cause by excessive rainfall in growing areas.

Soyabean is the main oilseeds crop during the kharif season.

Excess rainfall during the major part of the kharif season has affected the yield in three major growing areas of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The yield in Madhya Pradesh may fall to 897 kg a hectare from 950 kg a hectare last year, while in Maharashtra and Rajasthan, it may drop to 1,200 kg (1,255 kg last year) and 956 kg (1,150 kg), respectively.

Production in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra may fall to 56 lakh tonnes (59 lakh tonnes) and 45 lakh tonnes (49 lakh tonnes). In Rajasthan output is slated to fall to 10 lakh tonnes (12 lakh tonnes), it said.

Output in other soyabean growing States such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat is expected to remain according to the earlier estimate, said the association.

Tea prices rise at Kochi auction

Kochi, Oct. 28:

Prices of almost all varieties of tea increased at the Kochi Tea auction last week. In sale no 43, the quantity on offer in dust CTC grades was 11,73,000 kg.

The market for select best and popular marks was steady to firm and sometimes dearer following quality. Others were irregular and lower by Rs 5-10 and sometimes more. Though a better enquiry was seen from upcountry buyers, export demand was less.

Of the quantity of 6,000 kg on offer in orthodox dusts, the market was fully firm to dearer. Exporters absorbed a small quantity. In the best CTC dusts, PD varieties quoted Rs 97/115, RD grades fetched Rs 106/141, SRD ruled at Rs 115/150 and SFD stood at Rs 120/155. The leaf sale also witnessed a good demand and the quantity on offer in orthodox category was 120,500 kg. The market for Nilgiri Brokens whole leaf was dearer by Rs 5-10 and sometimes more. Highgrown fannings sold around last level. Medium, clean, black, well-made, whole leaf and bolder brokens was fully firm to dearer. Corresponding tippy grades was irregular and sometimes tended to ease and witnessed some withdrawals. Fannings from the same origin appreciated. The demand was good for CTC leaf and the quantity on offer was 67,000 kg. The market for good liquoring varieties barely remained steady. Others were irregular and lower by Rs 3-5 and noticed some withdrawals. There has been a subdued demand from exporters, while Kerala and upcountry buyers absorbed small quantity offered. In dust grades, Manjolai SFD quoted the best prices of Rs 163 followed by Manjolai SRD at Rs 158. In the leaf category, Chamraj FP-sup fetched the best prices of Rs 266 followed by Chamraj FOP-Sup (green tea) at Rs 261.

Poor quality grinds turmeric

Erode, Oct. 28:

Spot turmeric prices decreased on Monday due to poor quality offerings and slack upcountry demand.

“Only few orders were received by local traders and exporters. Of the 4,800 bags that arrived, 55 per cent was sold at a lower price. Traders and exporters purchased 40 per cent of the arrivals, while stockists procured 15 per cent,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,677-6,016; the root variety Rs 3,499-5,111 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 4,877-6,419 and the root variety Rs 4,534-5,517. Of the 852 bags that arrived, only 378 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,199-6,099; the root variety Rs 4,123-5,015. Of the 971 bags on offer, 692 were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 4,650-5,912 and the root variety Rs 4,149-5,042. All the 371 bags were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,089-6,110 and the root variety Rs 4,060-5,211. All the 208 bags found takers.

Mixed trend in rubber

Kottayam, Oct.28:

Physical rubber prices were mixed on Monday. The market continued to be dull lacking active, traders to initiate a strong movement in the commodity. Though, the arrivals were

low, selected counters slipped marginally, on buyer resistance amidst scattered transactions.

Sheet rubber slipped to Rs 158.50 (Rs 159) a kg, according to traders. The grade was quoted steady at Rs 159 and Rs 156 respectively, according to the Rubber Board and dealers. November futures closed at Rs 159.80 (Rs 159.97), December at Rs 161.40 (Rs 161.08) and January at Rs 163.40 (Rs 163.25) while the February and March contracts remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) weakened to Rs 155.23 (Rs 156.49) at Bangkok. November futures closed at ¥ 248.4 (Rs 156.40) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. **Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were:** RSS-4: 158.50 (159); RSS-5: 151 (151); Ungraded: 146 (146); ISNR 20: 150 (151) and Latex 60%: 117 (117).

Rice, the new beauty aid



Hyderabad, Oct. 28:

Rice, the staple cereal, can soon be a pain reliever, skin moisturiser or meet other skin-care needs.

A beginning towards this has been made with the Directorate of Rice Research, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, coming out with the country's first rice-based pain relieving gel and skin moisturising lotion.

The directorate is also expanding the field of its research from hybrid rice products to rice-based health and skin care products. Japan has been using rice for making a variety of natural skin and hair care products, including facial scrubs, anti-wrinkle and moisturisers for decades.

Encouraging results

"Our two new products have yielded encouraging results during trials and limited marketing. We are now ready to transfer the technology through tie ups with skin care product makers and

retailers on a royalty or partnership basis," B.C. Viraktamath, Project Director, told *Business Line*.

The institute, which sells hybrid seeds and services to private companies on a licensing basis, is in talks with small retailers and healthcare companies for taking up production on a commercial scale.

The skin-care product was made at DRR laboratory from rice bran oil and aqueous brown rice extract as key ingredients.

Due to the brown rice, the product also contains oryzanol, vitamins and other anti-oxidants that are known to have anti-aging qualities. "The starch extracted from brown rice acts as a gelling agent, providing moisture to the skin slowly but for a longer period of time. At laboratory scale, the production cost of 100 gm is just Rs 13. Thus, a Rs 5 lakh unit can produce 50 kg of the gel daily," he said.

The pain balm herbal formulation contains rice bran oil as a carrier, which helps active ingredients such as camphor, menthol and eucalyptus oil get absorbed in the skin faster, providing quick relief.

The production cost at DRR laboratory was Rs 20 for 25 gram.

UP detains sugar mills' officials in Bijnor for cane arrears

Industry rattled; farmers say State Govt action 'half-hearted'



New Delhi, Oct. 28:

The sugar industry in Uttar Pradesh is jittery over the "coercive" action being initiated by the State Government against some mills in Bijnor district over the delay in cane payment to farmers. "On Friday, three to four officials of sugar factories in Bijnor district were detained over the delay in cane payment to farmers and were subsequently released. This has triggered a kind of fear

psychosis among the officials of sugar factories in the region triggering a spate of resignations at these units," said Abinash Verma, Director-General of the Indian Sugar Mills Association.

Also, the Bijnor district authorities have sealed the godowns of companies such as Dwarikesh Sugars, Bajaj Hindusthan Ltd and Dhampur Sugars, Verma said. Stocks in these godowns were pledged to various banks and this is likely to compound the problems of millers.

However, V.M.Singh, Convenor of Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Sangh, termed the district authorities' action against the millers as "half-hearted", while stating that the State Government was not serious in resolving the issue.

"Eid has come and gone and Diwali is coming, but farmers are yet to get their dues for the cane sold last year," Singh said. Millers owe about Rs 2,400 crore to farmers in Uttar Pradesh alone.

Further, Singh demanded that the Uttar Pradesh Government declare a price of Rs 310-320 a quintal for 2013-14 as support price for cane, citing the increase of Rs 25 per quintal announced by Haryana at Rs 301 a quintal.

However, millers claim that the sugarcane price fixed by Uttar Pradesh has increased by about 70 per cent from Rs 165 a quintal in 2009-10 to Rs 280 in 2012-13, while sugar prices

have increased by only 6 per cent during the period. Uttar Pradesh millers, expressing their inability to pay beyond Rs 240 a quintal, said that high cane costs and low sugar prices had resulted in accumulation of losses. Last year, the Mayawati Government had fixed the State advised price at Rs 280 a quintal, while ex-factory sugar prices was hovering between Rs 29-31 a kg, forcing millers to incur a loss of Rs 4-5 for every kg of sugar produced.

Millers also claimed that bankers had been refusing to extend finance as the product price was not linked to the cane price and that factories were yet to clear last year's cane arrears of Rs 2,400 crore.

"The situation is bad in Uttar Pradesh. Instead of resorting to this unwanted coercive action, the Government should find a solution that will benefit both the millers and farmers," Verma said.

Sugar production in 2012-13 stood at 25.14 million tonnes (mt), while consumption was estimated at 22.8 mt. The industry is starting the new crushing season with an opening balance of 8.5 mt.

Cardamom rules steady despite heavy arrivals



Kochi, Oct. 28:

Cardamom prices were steady despite heavy arrivals at auctions last week on buying support. Around 650 tonnes of cardamom arrived at the auctions and of this, about 630 tonnes were absorbed by market, sources in Bodinayakannur told *Business Line*.

Dealers' participation was more, they said. According to traders, farmers as well as primary market dealers were not interested in holding material as they feared that prices will drop further.

Exporters were also covering 7-7.5 mm capsules at Rs 650 a kg. Average grade 8mm capsules were fetching only Rs 700 a kg, while bold with good colour were being sold at Rs 750 a kg. Total arrivals at the Sunday auction of the KCPMC increased to 105 tonnes from 90 tonnes the previous Sunday and the entire quantity was sold out, P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC, said. He said the maximum price was Rs 790 a kg and minimum Rs 412 a kg. The auction average was Rs 570 a kg down from Rs 593.11 a kg the previous week.

The individual auction average last week vacillated between Rs 555 and Rs 590 a kg which according to growers was much below remunerative price levels. As current season began officially from August 1, total arrivals during the season up to October 27 stood at 6,125 tonnes against 2,822 tonnes as on October 28 during the last season. Sales were at 5,979 tonnes and 2,639 tonnes respectively. The weighted average price as on October 27, 2013 stood at around Rs 607.66 a kg as against Rs 741.99 a kg as on October 28 in 2012.

Prices of all graded varieties remained unchanged last week and prices last weekend were (Rs/kg): AGEB 710-720; AGB 585 -595; AGS 545-555; and AGS -1: 525-535. Bulk was being sold at Rs 425-850 a kg.

Cotton to bloom further on export, mills offtake



Rajkot, Oct. 28:

Cotton price edged up on the back of fresh buying by mills to make stock for upcoming holidays. Moreover, *kapas* or raw cotton quality is still not good.

A cotton broker said that mills are buying at this level as market will remain closed for about 10 days during Diwali festival. Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton gained Rs 200-300 to Rs 42,000-42,500 a candy of 356 kg.

Kapas was traded higher by Rs 15-20 to Rs 1,020-1,030 for a *maund* of 20 kg. At the APMCs in Saurashtra, *kapas* price stood at Rs 950-1,070.

About 35,000-40,000 bales of 170 kg cotton arrived in Gujarat and 85,000-90,000 bales arrived in India.

The broker said that price may remain strong during this week as buying activity

is likely to gather momentum.

A trader said, "At present, export demand is not there and it will emerge after Diwali. Farmers selling will also increase after this."

Meanwhile, heavy rainfall in several areas of Andhra Pradesh, in the past few days has caused damage to more than 40,000 hectares of cotton crops.

Cotton output in India may jump 6.7 per cent to 38.1 million bales in the crop year that began on October 1 from 37.5 million bales estimated in September and 35.7 million bales in 2012-13.

Uptrend continues in pepper amid tight supplies

Kochi, Oct. 28: Spot pepper prices continued to scale new highs, while November futures contract also increased.

End users and dealers in consumer markets who have sold out their stocks are looking for fresh supplies, while small and medium end users are looking for material.

Added to this is the demand for winter requirements, market sources told *Business Line*.



Those who were hitherto covering from Karnataka have started buying from inter-State dealers in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Resellers and expert processors are selling processed 550 GL pepper in small lots, they said. In fact, of late, much of the pepper business has shifted to Tamil Nadu because of tax benefits and to Karnataka due to consistent rise in production there, they said.

But, availability continued to remain tight, they said.

On the spot, 23 tonnes of farm grade pepper arrived and 25 tonnes were traded at prices

ranging from Rs 467-470 a kg.

On the NMCE, November contract increased by Rs 360 to Rs 47,500 a quintal. December contracts declined by Rs 70 to Rs 46,800 .

On the IPSTA, activities were limited and hence, prices ruled steady.

Spot prices moved up further by Rs 200 on strong demand amid tight supply to Rs 46,600 (ungarbled) and Rs 48,600 (garbled) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market declined on weakening of the rupee against the dollar today to \$8,250-8,300 (c&f) Europe and \$8,550-8,500 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

Basmati paddy may top Rs 5,500 a quintal soon



Karnal, Oct. 28: The bullish trend in the rice market continued on Monday, with prices of aromatic and non-basmati varieties moving up by over Rs 50 a quintal.

Higher paddy prices coupled with overseas export and domestic demand pushed rice prices up further, said Amit Kumar, proprietor of Ginni Rice. Market sentiments are still largely positive and it is hard to anticipate the levels where this rally will head towards, he said.

According to the market experts, exporters are getting good demand from

West Asia and US.

This year, pure basmati paddy price has touched the levels of Rs 4,700 and it may touch Rs 5,500 a quintal in coming days, said market sources.

In the physical market, New Pusa-1121 (steam) improved further by Rs 200 to Rs 8,100-8,200, while new Pusa-1121 (sela) went up by Rs 50 to Rs 7,550. Pusa-1509 (sela) quoted at Rs 6,050-6,250.

Pure Basmati (Raw) quoted at Rs 11,500, up Rs 500. Duplicate basmati (steam) moved up by Rs 300 to Rs 6,700.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Dubar increased by Rs 300 to Rs 3,900, Tibar sold at Rs 4,500, while Mongra quoted at Rs 3,500.

In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) went up by Rs 100 to Rs 4,650-4,700, while Sharbati (Sela) increased by 200 to Rs 4,600.

Permal (raw) improved by Rs 125 at Rs 2,350-2,400 while Permal (sela) went up by Rs 100 to Rs 2,400 . PR-11 (sela) rose by Rs 200 to Rs 2,900 while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 3,000-3,100 , up Rs 300.

Prices of PR14 (steam) increased by Rs 400 to Rs 3,100 .

Paddy arrivals

About 50,000 bags of PR paddy arrived and quoted at Rs 1,400-50, around 25,000 bags of Pusa-1121 arrived and sold at Rs 3,800, 10,000 bags of Sugandha at Rs 2,700, while 5,000 bags of Sharbati arrived and sold at Rs 2,350.

Around 15,000 bags of Duplicate Basmati arrived and went for Rs 3,700 , while 500 bags of Pura Basmati sold at Rs 4,700 a quintal.

Festival demand lights up soyabean, oil



Indore, Oct. 28: Sluggish trend in soya oil on poor buying support seemed to have ended on strong global cues and rise in festival demand ahead of Diwali. In Indore mandis, soya refined rose to Rs 690-95 for 10 kg (Rs 685-689).

Similarly, soya solvent also rose to Rs 650-55 (Rs 645-50) on strong foreign support and festival demand ahead of local holidays in mandis next week for Diwali.

In futures, soya oil traded higher on global cues and buying support with November and December contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 731.91 (up Rs 11.95) and Rs 725.70 (up Rs 13.75).

With arrival of soyabean in State mandis declining to 3.75-4 lakh bags (5- 5.50 lakh bags last week) and rise in buying support from the crushers, prices in Indore mandis in the past one week have

increased by about Rs 200 to Rs 3,400-3,600 a quintal.

In the futures market also, soyabean ruled higher on strong global cues and buying support with November and December contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,808 (up Rs 83) and Rs 3,847 (up Rs 92).

Rise in demand from crushers has also lifted plant deliveries to Rs 3,650-3,750 (Rs 3,590-3,700).
