

Date : 05.09.2013



### Managing nematode infestation in banana

Nematode infestation is one of the major limiting factors in banana production. Burrowing nematode, root-lesion nematode, spiral nematode and root-knot nematode are the major nematodes associated with banana.

These cause extensive root and corm damage leading to 20-50 per cent fruit yield loss. Commercial banana cultivars like Nendran, Robusta, Grand Naine, Ney Poovan, Poovan and Rasthali are often infested by these nematodes.

#### **Dark lesions**

The nematodes penetrate the roots and destroy the plant cells. This leads to dark lesion on root surface. Under severe infestation the root turns black. These nematodes can migrate from infected roots to other parts of the plant.

Adult females lay 200-300 eggs. They damage the xylem vessel and affect the uptake of water and nutrients.

Research on nematode management in banana is in progress for more than three decades through All India Co-ordinated Project on Tropical Fruits (AICRP-TF) at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore. The following are some management options that help to overcome the infestation.

— Summer ploughing and exposing the soil to sunlight prior to planting for about two months.  
Selection of healthy sucker from nematode-free plants.

#### **Grow marigold**

— Growing Sunhemp or marigold in and around the basin of plants during early stages of crop and incorporating their biomass one month later can reduce nematode build up.

— Press mud application at rate of 15 tonnes per ha (5 kg/pit) or neem cake 1.5 tonnes per ha (500 g/pit) during planting can also help to avoid nematode build up.

— Application of farm-yard manure at 10 kg per plant 60 days after planting. — Rotating banana with paddy.

— Application of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* liquid formulation at 4 lit/ha at two, four and six months after planting through drip system will help.

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### Rice intensification method getting popular

It can produce higher paddy yield than the conventional method



*For a bountiful harvest: Agricultural labourers in a field where the system of rice Intensification is being implemented, at Pillaikothur village in Shoolagiri Panchayat Union, on Wednesday. – Photo: N.Bashkaran*

The system of rice intensification (SRI) method of cultivating paddy crop has gained momentum in Krishnagiri district. Out of the total number of 762 villages, 688 villages have adopted the SRI method in Shoolagiri Panchayat Union, said Collector T.P. Rajesh here on Wednesday.

Mr. Rajesh said that ninety per cent of the farmers in Parthakottai, A. Kothur, Keeranapalli, T.G.M. Kotta, Koneripalli and Pillaikothur villages in Shoolagiri block are in favour of the method. “SRI, a proven technology for increased production of paddy than the conventional method of paddy cultivation has gained momentum in Krishnagiri district,” he said.

So far, the SRI method of cultivation of paddy has been adopted in 7,200 hectares during the current financial year. Another 11,650 hectares would be covered during the Samba and Navarai seasons.

Under this method the yield per hectare is around 9,200 kg, i.e. 50 per cent higher than yield of 6,100 kg per hectare under the conventional method of cultivation.

Sustained efforts are being taken to improve the area of paddy cultivation under the SRI method. The department has planned to bring 66 per cent of the total area of cultivation under SRI method.

Farmers who were sceptical about this method have not only adopted it but also propagated its advantages among other farmers in Pillaikothur, said a progressive farmer, Rajappa, of Pillaikothur village.

Mr. Rajappa said that under the SRI method, the yield per hectare is 10 to 15 bags higher than that in the conventional method of cultivation. It requires only a minimum quantity of fertilizers, water and fewer labourers.

The Regional Research Station, Paiyur, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, has advised farmers to undertake cultivation of nine high-yielding varieties of rice such as Ankur Sonam, Sonalika, Silky Sona, BPT 5204, Sona Masuri, Paiyur — 1, ADT 39, KRH 2 and CO RH 3. S. Radhakrishnan, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture was present on the occasion.

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### **Training for farmers**

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vamban, near here will organise a day long training programme for the benefit of farmers on fodder crop and grass at its premises on September 6. Interested farmers can contact the KVK over phone 94447 19043, an official press release issued here on Wednesday said.

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### **Record sales by Aavin**

In an all-time high, Aavin milk sales touched 11.50 lakh litres in the city on Wednesday. Of this, the Sholinganallur dairy of Aavin alone supplies 4.50 lakh litres.

Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Chairman A. Miller, who visited the dairy, said that the Sholinganallur dairy would soon be able to handle an additional 50,000 litres a day. The capacity of the cold room is being expanded and Rs. 56 lakh worth equipment is being procured for this.

The Sholinganallur facility was commissioned in 1996 with a capacity of 40,000 litres a day.

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## Baobab medicinal plants need protection

**'From bark to fruit, all parts of the tree can be used for curing various common ailments'**



*Baobab tree which is widely used in Ayurveda medicine. —Photo: K. RAVIKUMAR*

The wide-trunked baobab, an endangered medicinal plant with much significance in Ayurveda, is found in small numbers in Nellore city and Tada area in the district.

Highly valued for its rich nutritive and medicinal properties, the long-living trees require attention of the civic society and the administration as their protection is important for future generations, say researchers.

S.K.M Basha, associate professor at the NBKR Medicinal Plant Research Centre, Vidyanagar, says that the Baobab trees are under threat and they should be protected for their immense potential in the protection and promotion of rural health and prosperity. From bark to fruit, all parts of the tree can be used for curing various common ailments, he says.

Referring to the tree located on the premises of the DKW College in the city, Mr. Basha says that these trees have wide trunks for storing a large quantity of water which could be used in times of drought and adverse weather conditions. The tree has a long life which runs up to hundreds and thousands of years.

Mr. Basha says the parts of baobab trees are widely used for curing ailments in the rural parts of Gujarat, but it has not picked up much in other parts of the country. The bark decoction is used for curing fevers. Only a few baobab trees are found in Nellore district which underlines the need for taking immediate protection measures.

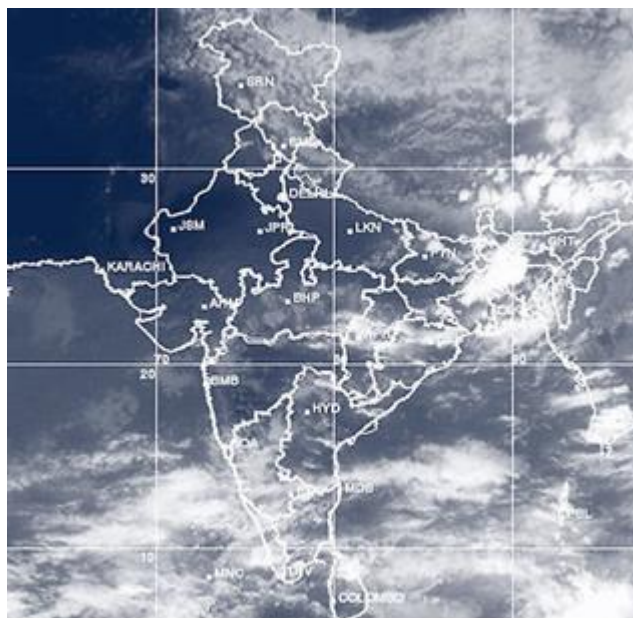
The tree is seen in parts of plain lands of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

The leaves, fibre, fruits, seeds, bark, gum and roots of baobab are used for medicinal purposes. Dry and fresh leaves are crushed and used for removing body odour when suffering from fevers.

Mr. Basha, who is doing a UGC-funded research project on "Assessment of phyto diversity and conservation of Pulicat Lake," says that the international agencies such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation have accorded priority to research and development of Baobab.

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## Weather



*INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on Sept. 4.*

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	36	26	0	518
New Delhi (Sfd)	36	26	0	781
Chandigarh	35	25	0	780
Hissar	37	24	0	507
Bhuntar	34	17	0	399
Shimla	26	15	0	-108
Jammu	32	23	0	1185
Srinagar	27	14	0	217
Amritsar	35	25	0	747
Patiala	35	26	0	690
Jaipur	37	24	0	661
Udaipur	31	23	0	656
Allahabad	35	26	0	943
Lucknow	35	25	0	707
Varanasi	35	26	tr	741
Dehradun	32	21	10	2705
Agartala	30	26	5	715
Ahmedabad	35	25	0	749
Bangalore	30	19	4	520
Bhubaneshwar	32	25	0	696
Bhopal	32	23	0	1113
Chennai	36	22	17	486
Guwahati	31	24	26	726
Hyderabad	31	23	2	527
Kolkata	33	26	0	1440
Mumbai	33	27	0	2060
Nagpur	33	23	0	1328
Patna	29	25	31	553
Pune	30	20	0	535
Thiruvananthapuram	32	24	7	890
Imphal	31	22	10	828
Shillong	24	18	21	849

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

### **MAINLY DRY WEATHER**

**RAINFALL:** Rain/thundershowers have occurred at a few places over Uttarakhand and at isolated places over Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and east Uttar Pradesh. Weather was dry over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm are: (2 cm and above), **EAST UTTAR PRADESH:** Gorakhpur 2 and **UTTARAKHAND:** Haldwani 4 and Kotdwara 2.

**FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 06th SEPTEMBER 2013** :Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and east Uttar Pradesh. Weather would be mainly dry over rest of the region.

**FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 06th SEPTEMBER 2013**: Mainly clear sky.

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### Plantations to turn into natural forests

**Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding has started work on 60 hectares in Andamans**



*A wattle plantation in the Nilgiris. —Photo: IFGTB*

With several plantations likely to end their leases in the coming years, scientists are thinking ahead of means to convert them into natural forests.

Coimbatore-based Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) has launched a project on a 60-hectare extent in the Andamans and it is in the process of successfully converting the teak and padauk plantations into near natural forests.

Giving details about the programme to *The Hindu*, N. Krishnakumar, Director of IFGTB said the basic idea of the programme was to restore the ecology of the place with an intention to convert it into a natural forest. Forests not only provided shelter and shade to the fauna, but also provided feed to them. Already, forest departments in various States were trying out this method to convert abandoned plantations into forests, he said.

The programme was implemented with two main objectives, the first of which was to support the regeneration of plants, shrubs and other flora by doing soil work and introducing micro organisms, thereby creating a favourable atmosphere for regeneration. The next step was to plant saplings deliberately to increase the density of natural species.

To implement the second part, a study on the ecological features of the plantations was taken up in comparison to the natural forest around. First, the officials introduced herbs and shrubs, followed by small trees and finally, canopy-forming trees were planted in the area. Following this, a planting design was adopted to ensure the survival of all the planted species. Simultaneously, at periodical intervals, the crops in the plantation area could be cleared. In the Andamans and Kerala, the Institute, along with local Forest department authorities, is clearing abandoned plantations which are being converted into natural forests. The Institute has a plan to take up a study on wattle and eucalyptus plantations in the Nilgiris and teak plantations in Kerala, Dr. Krishnakumar said.

Before taking up the conversion, all the human-caused stresses have to be removed from the abandoned plantations. Similarly, efforts have to be made to ensure the flow of seeds from the natural forest into the plantation area, which will enhance the conversion process, he said. These plantations have the potential to harbour natural vegetation and wildlife and the process should make more wildlife move into the converted plantations, he added.

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### **'Uzhavar Peruvizha has helped over 2.4 lakh farmers'**

The Uzhavar Peruvizha function has been held in as many as 863 villages across Cuddalore district benefiting over 2.4 lakh farmers, according to Collector R. Kirlosh Kumar.

Giving an overview of the function, he told reporters here that besides disseminating information on modern farm techniques, the function also provided an opportunity for farmers to choose crops suitable to their soil condition and adopt better water management practices and fertilizer applications.

Mr. Kumar said that as successive monsoons failed, farmers were hit hard. The farm sector was also affected by manpower shortage.

To revive agriculture and give it new thrust, the government had launched the Uzhavar Peruvizha concept in April 2012.

Subsequently, a series of such events were held in villages with the active participation of farmers. To overcome labour shortage, Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks (PACBs) had been directed to earmark a sum of Rs. 20 lakh each for procuring farm implements and machinery and give them away on hire at concessional rates.

So, with minimal workforce, farmers could get their tasks accomplished through machinery at a lower cost.



Agricultural scientists and farm experts were deployed to spread information on new varieties and modern technologies among farmers.

Through street plays and folk music, the message was conveyed to the target groups. Besides, an exhibition-on-wheel made rounds in 857 villages and distributed hand bills on proper farm practices.

Soil samples at each of these villages were tested to suggest the farmers the kind of crops to be raised.

On implementation of the Uzhavar Peruvizha, P.R avindhiran, president of the Federation of Cuddalore District Uzhavar Manrams, told The Hindu that it had encouraged farmers to go for direct sowing of paddy on 50,000 acres in the delta region by veering away from the traditional practice of raising nursery.

Several farmers who were hitherto unaware of the use of micro nutrients had come to know of its benefits. Farm machinery was being made available on hire at concessional rates through the PACBs.

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### **Poly green house farming catching on in Kodaikanal hills**

#### **Crops are better protected from pest attack and disease compared to open air cultivation**

Flower growers and farmers in the hill station are taking to Poly Green House (PGH) cultivation, encouraged by effective pest control and the consequent increase in output.

Green houses offer a controlled environment irrespective of weather conditions and temperature that oscillates between 24 and eight degree Celsius.

Crops are better protected from pest attack and disease compared to open air cultivation. The five-layered UV-stabilised polythene sheet helps regulate the temperature in the poly green house, says Deputy Director of Horticulture S. Raja Mohammad.

Carnation growers are the major beneficiaries, with the number of flowers grown under PGH touching 15 to 18 in the gestation period against the five to seven per plant grown in open conditions.

With an average annual rainfall of 1,644 mm in 90 days, many coffee growers on the lower slopes and vegetable growers on the upper tracts have shifted to floriculture. With a growing demand for exports, cultivation of cut flowers like Carnation has become a profitable venture for farmers.

Farmers have formed a cluster and covered 14,600 sq.m. under PGH in Gundupatti, a remote village near Kookkal. They produce Carnation cut flowers that compete in quality with those from Columbia. Gundupatti flowers command the best price in the Bangalore market, Mr. Mohammad says.

For the first time, S. Mahalakshmi of Gundupatti has successfully raised carnation plants with unique colours, imported from Kenya, under PGH.

“I have earned around Rs.16 lakh in one-and-a-half years from cut flower sales,” says another farmer T.S. Selvayogan of Gundupatti village.

The Department of Horticulture has released a subsidy of Rs.76.12 lakh towards PGH and shade net cultivation so far.

In 2012-13, poly green house was set up on 14,767 sqm and a subsidy of Rs.69.04 lakh released to farmers. About Rs.1.03 crore had been earmarked for this fiscal for PGH under NHM. Farmers will get a 50 per cent subsidy, according to the Deputy Director.

Other horticulture crops including vegetables such as beans, potato, carrot, cabbage and garlic, fruits such as plum, pear, peach, hill banana, mandarin orange, avocado, and acid lime, flowers such as carnation, gerbera, bird of paradise and alstroemeria, spices such as pepper, cardamom and nutmeg, and plantation crops such as coffee and cocoa are grown in Kodaikanal. Horticulture crops are cultivated on an area of 18,596 hectares in the Kodaikanal block, he pointed out.

### **Simmakkal fruit market to be shifted**



*Relief soonThe fruit market at Simmakkal in Madurai.— Photo: R. Ashok*

The Municipal Corporation proposes to shift the fruit market from Simmakkal to Mattuthavani to ease traffic congestion in the heart of the city.

An area to house 225 fruit shops has been earmarked near the central vegetable market. Wholesale and retail shops functioning at Yanaikkal, Simmakal, North Masi Street and North Marret Street will shift to the new market once it is ready.

The Corporation Council meeting held here on Wednesday passed a resolution to this effect. Mayor V.V.Rajan Chellappa and Corporation Commissioner R. Nanthagopal sought the council's nod to provide drainage, roads, stormwater drains and streetlights at the proposed relocation site.

The decision to shift the fruit market was taken after obtaining consent from the Fruit Commission Merchants Association and the Simmakal Wholesale Traders Association. .

As requested by the two associations, 75 shops will be constructed, each measuring 600 to 700 sq ft.

A deposit of Rs.5 lakh will be collected for each shop. Another 150 shops measuring 250 to 300 sq ft each would be constructed and the deposit will be Rs.2.5 lakh.

The monthly rent will be fixed by the Public Works Department.

The traders must pay the advance upfront to book the shops.

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### **End wild pig menace: farmers**

Farmers in and around Kulapuravu in Puliurkurchi near Thazakudi urged the Department of Forest to end wild pig menace. They raised groundnut crops and banana plantations in Thazakudi and the surrounding areas. However as Thadakamalai was just one km away from the land, wild pigs damage the crops. As killing of wild pigs is an offence, the farmers do not know how to end the menace.

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### **Mettur level**

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 110.60 feet on Wednesday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 12,189 cusecs and the discharge 18,034 cusecs.

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### **Water level**

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Wednesday stood at 105.15 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 440.88 cusecs and 1,116 cusecs of water was discharged from

the dam. The level of the Manimuthar dam stood at 61.22 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 44 cusecs and 45 cusecs was discharged.

### **Nagercoil**

Water level in the Pechipparai dam stood at 23.40 feet, while it was 59.75 feet in Perunchani, 9.74 feet in Chittar I, 9.84 feet in Chittar II and 30.51 feet in the Mambazathuraiyaru dam.

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### **Aavin milk sale goes up in Tuticorin, Nellore**

#### **2000 litres sold additionally every day, says GM**

The sale of Aavin milk has witnessed an increasing trend in the recent past.

To meet the growing demand of consumers, 2000 litres of milk had been sold additionally every day over the last one month in Tuticorin and Tirunelveli districts, according to T. Balaji, General Manager, Aavin, Tirunelveli.

Aavin, the only state-owned milk agency, has become the much sought after consumer product despite many private agencies in existence. He said Aavin has already seen surplus in production and it resulted in boosting sale. On average, 45, 000 litres milk a day would be sold through various marketing outlets and milk vending agencies in these districts but the upward trend has increased its market potential to 47, 000 litres every day.

The surplus production could be shared with cooperative milk marketing federations in Chennai and also in Kerala. A large number of beneficiaries under the state-sponsored free cattle distribution scheme also contributed much to the rise in productivity.

About 3000 litres a day from beneficiaries who had been enjoying the scheme in Tuticorin district was being provided to Aavin, Mr. Balaji said.

But over the last couple of weeks, milk productivity has not been up to the mark. "Productivity level has come down to 54, 000 litres a day against its average of 60, 000 litres. Dwindling fodder crop resources caused the dip in productivity. Owing to lack of water resources coupled with rain failure, the fodder crop has been scarcely available and could not suit the requirements of cattle rearers. However, the productivity is expected to increase in a month, he said citing the much awaited rainfall.

To overcome the fodder scarcity, S. Gengaraj, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, Tuticorin region, when contacted, said the government had launched the Drought Mitigation scheme (2013-14), through which fodder (chulam seeds) and subsidy amount had been extended to cattle farmers.

About 16 kg of fodder for an acre of land and subsidy amount of Rs.6, 800 for the same extent were provided to the farmers under the scheme, Dr. Gengaraj said. Since most of the farmers would normally prefer cash crops to fodder crop during the drought-hit days, the scheme would be an attraction.

Under this scheme, 700 acres had been covered across Tuticorin district and 615 farmers had benefitted so far. The farmers with bore-well, irrigation well and pump sets were included in the scheme. Harvest season was nearing and five metric tonnes of green fodder crop could be raised on one acre.

On free cattle distribution, Dr. Gengaraj said so far 1, 448 milch cows had been given to beneficiaries across the district since the launch of the scheme. Of the target in 2013-14, 259 milch cows had been given to beneficiaries out of 650, he said.

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### **Heavy rain in Vellore district**

Heavy rain lashed parts of Vellore district on Tuesday night, with Kaveripakkam recording 129.6 mm of rainfall during the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Rainfall received in other parts of the district during the same period are as follows: Vellore 56 mm, Gudiyatham 43.2 mm, Sholinghur 40 mm, Melalathur 34.2 mm, Arcot 30.4 mm, Walajapet 30 mm and Arakkonam 15.6 mm.

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### **City fish markets to get a new look**

S.S. Mallikarjun, MLA, has said that the two fish markets here would be upgraded. He said on Wednesday that the Fisheries Department had released Rs. 1.16 lakh for the market adjacent to Denge Park and Rs. 1.30 lakh for the market near Aruna theatre. New hi-tech fish markets would be constructed in the same place. Similarly, the government had released Rs. 50 lakh for the construction of a mutton market and slaughter house, he said.

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### **Fix sugarcane procurement price at Rs. 3,000 a tonne, State urged**

Members of the CPI(M) on Wednesday urged the State government to fix the procurement price for sugarcane at Rs. 3,000 a tonne for the current crushing season. As many as 100 members of the party staged a demonstration outside the Deputy Commissioner's office here.

The State was also supposed to fix the sugarcane procurement price in June, but has yet to do so, they said. Shouting slogans against the State government for not initiating measures to fix the cane procurement price for the present crushing season, agitators also requested the authorities concerned to discharge water into the Cauvery-dependent canals in the district.

### **Full to the brim**

The Krishnaraja Sagar Reservoir is full to the brim, but farmers in the lower reaches of several canals in the district have not been getting proper water supply to their fields, Puttamadu, CPI(M) district secretary, told *The Hindu*.

According to him, the Mandya district administration has “completely failed” to safeguard farmers in the lower reaches of the KRS-dependent canals in the district.

The district administration should establish vigilance squads to prevent farmers in the upper reaches of canals from drawing excess water, “so that the farmers in the tail-end areas can save their crops,” CPI (M) leader C. Kumari said.

Later, agitators submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner B.N. Krishnaiah, who promised to take up the issue with the government.

***District administration should establish vigilance squads to prevent farmers in upper reaches of canals from drawing excess water: CPI(M)***

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### **‘Lift scheme a boon for farmers’**



*Welfare agenda: Minister for Major Irrigation P. Sudarshan Reddy inspecting the lift irrigation canal, in Nizamabad on Wednesday.- Photo: By Arrangement*

Minister for Major Irrigation P. Sudarshan Reddy, on Wednesday, switched on the lift irrigation scheme built with an amount of Rs.4.73 crore at Shakapur village in Navipet mandal and inspected the water flow in canals.

Addressing the gathering of farmers on the occasion, he said the scheme was meant to provide water to 2,052 acres in Shakapur, Binola, Lingapur, Nizampur besides his native village of Siranpally and was completed within a record time. Free current, interest-free loans and water supply through canals and LI schemes enabled farmers to get higher quantities of farm produce, the Minister said.

Yet, farmers should not depend only on paddy cultivation as there were several benefits in sowing dry crops, he said. Changes in crop patterns would increase soil fertility and yield, he said.

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### **Apple prices crash in Himachal**

The wholesale prices of apple and some other fruits in Himachal Pradesh and neighbouring States have been falling steeply.

The traders are blaming the farmers for creating a glut situation that has resulted in the fall in prices. Approximately 3.5 crore boxes, about 50 per cent of the crop, have arrived at various markets in the State, Chandigarh and Delhi.

A 20 kg box of top variety (Royal Delicious) apple that fetched a price of Rs.1,800 earlier is now being sold for only Rs.900-1,000 in Shimla.

Former State Horticulture Minister Narendra Bragta, who led a rally in the apple belt of Rohru and Kotkhai on Wednesday, has blamed the lifting of import duty on apple by the Congress Government for the falling prices.

The farmers also submitted a memorandum to the Governor on the bad plight of roads, increased transport tariffs, erratic power supply and shortage of labour in the apple producing areas of the State.

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### **RCF begins revival of Talcher fertiliser plant**

#### **The company investing Rs. 1,000 crore on the project**

Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF), under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, has begun the process of reviving the Talcher Fertilizer plant at Talcher in Odisha.

“RCF will invest Rs 1,000 crore for the revival of the Talcher Fertiliser Plant along with other Central agencies like Coal India, GAIL and Fertilizer Corporation of India,” Srikant Jena, said Union Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizers.

Mr Jena said the Centre was contemplating setting up a Rs 6,000-crore fertilizer complex comprising a 2,700-MTPD ammonia plant, a 3,850-MTPD urea plant, an 850-MTPD nitric acid plant and a 1,000-MTPD ammonium nitrate plant at Talcher.

### **Stock taking**

A four-member Central team headed by Project India Development Limited Additional General Manager A. K. Sinha visited the plant on Tuesday and took stock of the condition of machinery, technical facilities, production capacity and surroundings.

The Talcher Fertiliser Plant would be revived using the coal gasification route, sources said. The plant, which was closed for incurring continuous losses, has been selected by the Union Cabinet to be revived along with others.

### **MCF offer**

Meanwhile, the Mahanadi Coal Fields has expressed readiness to meet all the coal requirements of the plant after its revival.

The ruling BJD has, however, raised a question on the timing of the Centre's action of reviving the Talcher Fertiliser Plant when the model code of conduct for the ensuing September 19 urban elections was in force.

"We suspect that the UPA government took this step to influence the voters in Talcher and Angul urban local bodies," BJD vice-president and State Health Minister Damodar Rout said. - PTI

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### **Cutting fodder costs by adopting an innovative method**



*Lower investment: The grass grows to a height of six to eight feet in a span of two months.— Photo: Special Arrangement*



Scientists from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Kannur (KVK) of Kerala Agricultural University, Panniyur, have developed an innovative method to grow fodder grass (CO-3 variety) on rooftops of cattle sheds to help dairy farmers grappling with space constraints and fodder scarcity.

A recent experiment by Dr. T. Giggin, Assistant Professor of the Institute promises to address the green fodder requirement issue of space constraint for cattle growers easily.

### **High density planting**

The technique, called high density double planting with drip irrigation, involves growing fodder grass in plastic 'grow-bags' usually used for cultivating vegetables.

The grass grows to a height of six to eight feet in a span of two months, according to Dr. Giggin. At the KVK campus, the grass is grown in around 300 UV stabilized bags, placed equidistantly, with a foot's space left between the bags.

Water and manure are supplied using drip irrigation. "The first harvest can be done after 10 weeks of planting and thereafter harvest can be done every 30 days. One set of plantation can give yield as many as eight times a year. Different varieties of grass can be grown by this method," says Dr. Giggin.

The innovation is attractive because of the financial gain it can give the farmers. A cow, which is usually given concentrate feed costing Rs.22 a kg, can easily be given five kg of green grass at Rs.5 a kg.

Such a huge saving in production cost will be a boon for the dairy sector which faces regular decline in number of dairy animals every year.

### **Basic reason**

"In a place where land availability for agricultural use is very low due to fragmentation and high cost, dairy farmers resort to expensive concentrate feeds as a replacement for green fodder. This is the basic reason for the high production cost of milk in many states and also the reason for many progressive farmers in Kerala moving away from dairy," says Dr Giggin.

Apart from growing, farmers can also take up selling the root slips of the green grass that can give them some additional income. A single root costs Rs.2 and there is quite a demand for procuring fresh green grass.

### **Investment**

An investment of Rs.100 a month produces fodder costing Rs.6,000 in six months. Grass grows faster in this method as ample sunlight is available. Moreover nagging problems of pests and

weeds are mostly absent. A single bag has a three year utility span. The KVK has initiated this method for paddy cultivation also which is helpful even in water-scarce areas.

“The lush greenery in the terrace prevents direct sunlight from falling on the terrace which in turn reduces the temperature inside the cattle shed. This means less need for fans, and lower power consumption thus saving on electricity,” he says.

Providing green fodder for milch animals has always proved to be a difficult task for cattle rearers because sourcing the grass itself is hard work. Even if available, depending on the season (especially summer months), suppliers charge a huge amount.

### **Cost**

A truckload of green fodder can cost anything from Rs.3000- Rs. 5,000 and depending on the number of animals the farmer needs to buy one or two times a month.

“We have tried this method as an experiment and found it to be quite successful. Our center is now trying to create awareness among cattle growers in the region to adopt a similar method and benefit,” says Dr. Giggin.

Interested farmers can get in touch with Dr. Giggin, Asst Professor, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kannur, Panniyur, Kerala Agricultural University,

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# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

## Rare Wayanad rice to get new lease of life

A rare rice variety, traditionally grown in the tribal areas of Wayanad in Kerala will have a new lease of life, thanks to the efforts of the a team of research scholars from India and Germany to popularise it among local farmers.

The rice variety was named 'Gandhakassala' and its preservation would help in conserving the bio-diversity of Wayanad, besides protecting the particular rice variety, said Professor Martina Padmanabhan, team leader of BioDIVA, an inter-disciplinary research team, which is now working with MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai.

The team is studying about social, economic and ecological aspects of biodiversity in rice farming in Wayanad district. It recently organised a three-day national level dialogue on 'Cultivating Diversity: Transdisciplinary research on agrobiodiversity and land use change' at MSSRF, Chennai.

Speaking to Express, Martina said, "In Wayanad, the agricultural land is gradually shrinking and there is no market for local rice varieties. People claim that due to schemes like the MGNREGS, the agriculture labour cost has gone up".

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## Goat Development Corporation: Panel formed

A six-member expert committee has been formed under the Additional Director, Special Livestock Breeding programme, to carry out a feasibility study on setting up a Goat Development Corporation in the state.

The committee comprises of Venugopal, assistant director, Goat Farm, Parassala, Prem Jain, assistant director, Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Sethumadhavan of College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Mannuthy, Thrissur, Vinodkumar of Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Mannuthy, K C Prasad, veterinary surgeon of Veterinary dispensary, Ottasekharamangalam and Rajeev of Livestock Development Board.

The order to form the committee has been issued a couple of days ago following the proposal for the same.

“The formation of the Goat Development Corporation had been proposed in the state budget. There are goat development corporations in many states including neighbouring states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu,” said Prem Jain.

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### Coconut crops face crunch

The coconut has shrunk over the last three years, in terms of size and yield, due to continuous dry spells and the spread of diseases. So much so that a committee studying the situation has recommended that no new plantations should be allowed in rain-fed, non-irrigated areas.

Coconuts are big business in Karnataka, with an annual turnover of Rs 2,100 crore. They are grown over 1.65 lakh hectares across seven districts.

A Central team headed by Union horticulture commissioner Gorak Singh visited coconut plantations across seven districts in the state in the last week of July.

It found that the number of nuts per palm, on an average, has come down from 80 prior to 2010, to less than 10. And the average size of the nuts are a mere 100-200 grams as against 400-600 grams earlier.

The committee has recommended: “No new coconut plantations should be taken up in un-irrigated/rain fed areas.”

It has suggested that diseased and dried palms be pulled out by root and alternative horticulture crops like mango, guava, jackfruit, jamun, tamarind, custard apple, pomegranate, which are less water consuming, be introduced. The team visited Tumkur, Hassan, Chikmagalur, Mandya, Ramanagar, Mysore and Chamarajanagar.

Additional chief secretary and development commissioner V Umesh told Express: “Coconut plantations on 15,789 hectares are dead in a total of 1,65,349 hectares. Yield has come down by 50 per cent on 1.49 lakh hectares. As many as 2.40 lakh farmers have been impacted.”

Horticulture commissioner M K Shankarlinge Gowda, who was also part of the committee, told Express: “The total number of coconuts produced annually in Karnataka is 350 crore nuts, with a turnover of Rs 2,100 crore at the rate of Rs 6 a nut.”

The committee has recommended that wherever irrigation facility is assured in existing coconut plantations, attempts need to be made to rejuvenate and replant the palms.

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## Weather

INDIAN CITIES

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Sep 5

Max 34° | Min 26°

Rain: 0  
Humidity: 79  
Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:57  
Sunset: 06:17  
Barometer: 1008

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Friday, Sep 6

Max 34° | Min 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday  
Sep 7



35° | 26°  
Cloudy

Sunday  
Sep 8



34° | 25°  
Overcast

Monday  
Sep 9



33° | 25°  
Overcast

Tuesday  
Sep 10



33° | 25°  
Overcast

Wednesday  
Sep 11



33° | 25°  
Overcast

Airport Weather

Chennai Chennai

Rain: 0  
Humidity: 79  
Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:57  
Sunset: 06:17

Barometer: 1008



# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

## Rainfall is scanty in a few pockets in peninsular India



*There are pockets in peninsular India which are still waiting for good rainfall.*

PUNE: Even as India is set to reap a bumper kharif harvest due to ample rains across the country, parts of Bihar, the Northeast and pockets in peninsular India are still waiting for good rainfall. Scanty rainfall will affect the paddy crop in Bihar and the Northeast.

"Paddy production in Bihar will decline by 15-20% while the decline in the Northeast will be less than 10%," said B Venkateswarlu, director, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture.

He was part of the central team that toured Bihar and the for early rabi crops," said Venkateswarlu. There are pockets in peninsular India which are still waiting for good rainfall.

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## India likely to harvest record 107 mn tonnes rice in 2013-14: IGC



*Rice output is expected to touch a new record of 107 million tonnes in 2013-14 crop year, while exports are expected to dip by almost 10 per cent.*

NEW DELHI: Rice output is expected to touch a new record of 107 million tonnes in 2013-14 crop year, while exports are expected to dip by almost 10 per cent to 8.5 million tonnes in the same period, according to IGC.

The world's second largest rice producer is estimated to have harvested 104.4 million tonnes in 2012-13 crop year (July-June). It had reached a record 105.30 million tonnes of the grain output in 2011-12.

In the latest report, the International Grains Council has projected India's rice production to touch a new record at 107 million tonnes in 2013-14, against the demand of 97.9 million tonnes for the same period.

With an opening stock 22.9 million tonnes, total supply of the grain has been projected at 129.9 million tonnes this year, it said.

On rice exports, IGC said the country may export 8.5 million tonnes in 2013-14, down by almost 10 per cent from 9.4 million tonnes shipments made in the last year.

The report highlighted that Indian exporters have gained market share following the removal of

the ban on shipments of non-basmati rice at the end of 2011, also reflecting competitive pricing relative to the main exporters.

The country is bracing for record rice output as area sown to paddy has increased so far buoyed by a good monsoon.

According to Agriculture Ministry data, area planted under paddy has increased to 35.46 million hectare till last month of the ongoing kharif season, as against 34.47 million hectare in the same period last year.

The kharif season begins with the onset of southwest monsoon from June. Much of the rice output is grown in the Kharif season, while the rest 15-20 per cent of the produce comes from rabi (winter) season.

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### **39 Indian firms to participate in Saudi Agro Food exhibition**

DUBAI: Thirty-nine Indian firms will participate at an agro-food exhibition in Saudi Arabia, which will have a dedicated India Pavilion to showcase its products, from basmati rice to coffee and spices, among others.

The four-day Saudi Agro Food 2013 exhibition will start from September 15 in the Arab state's capital city Riyadh.

The India Pavilion will showcase the country's products, from basmati rice, frozen meat, coffee, spices to mango pulp and fruits, among others, and would be spread over in an area of approximately 400 sq mtrs.

Senior officials from India Trade Promotion Organisation, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Commerce and Industry would also be available to explain the unique characteristics of Indian food and will hold extended discussions on matters related to investments in agro-food sector in India, among others.

Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trading partner with a bilateral trade crossing \$43 billion in



2012-13.

India's huge agro resource base and a host of natural advantages make it a chosen destination for sourcing a variety of agricultural products, a statement from Indian embassy in Riyadh said.

The total Indian agri exports were \$ 22,138 million during 2012-13, out of which, Saudi Arabia accounted for \$1,203 million during this period.

Major products being exported to Saudi Arabia are rice, buffalo, sheep and goat meat, fresh and preserved fruits and vegetables, confectionery and other processed foods, among others.

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#### Heavy rainfall damages crops over 11.82 lakh hectare area in Maharashtra



*Heavy rainfall in June and July has damage life, property and crops in Chandrapur, Yavatmal and Amaravati districts in the state.*

PUNE: Floods and heavy rainfall have damaged crops on 11.82 lakh hectare in Maharashtra. The state government has asked for relief package of Rs 1500 crore from the central government.

Heavy rainfall in June and July has damage life, property and crops in Chandrapur, Yavatmal and Amaravati districts in the state. ""Water is still being supplied by tankers Jat, Man, Khatao, Mangalvedha and Atpadi talukas,"" said Patangrao Kadam, minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, Maharashtra.

Heavy rainfall till August 30 has damaged 6,496 houses completely and 1,31,195 houses partially. Of these, owners of 5,314 houses have been given reimbursement for loss of property. The damage to public property has been assessed at Rs 182.06 crore. Kadam said that the state needs central government's help for the Rs 557.41 crore help required for reimbursing the damage caused to crops and land.

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### **Sugar co-operatives may not get bank loans for cane crushing**



*September is crucial for cane's growth as weather conditions in this month will decide the final tonnage when cane is crushed.*

PUNE: The number of sugar co-operatives participating in the 2013-14 crushing season in Maharashtra, the top sugar producer, is likely to decline due to financial difficulties.

A considerable number of mills may find it tough to get bank loans due to their negative net worth caused by low offtake and subdued sugar prices for most part of 2012-13. In a meeting on Tuesday, the state government decided to begin crushing operations from November 1.

The sugar year is from October 1 to September 30. September is crucial for cane's growth as weather conditions in this month will decide the final tonnage when cane is crushed.

The state has estimated that sugar mills in the state will crush 640 lakh tonne cane and produce 73 lakh tonne sugar. Vijaysinha Mohite Patil, chairman, Maharashtra State Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation, said the Federation has requested the government to stand guarantee for bank loans given to sugar co-ops.

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# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Price of red rice and coconut also up

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The price of red rice, which is an integral part of a Malayali lunch, increased by around 25% touching Rs 36 from Rs 28 in the last one year alone. Coconut prices too increased by 21.97% touching Rs 10 per coconut from Rs 8 in the last one year, a study released by department of economics and statistics on daily price of essential committees showed.

This comes at a time when both paddy and coconut production has hit an all-time low with the paddy production decreasing by 26% in the last decade and coconut production decreasing by 15% in the same period.

The state's large demand for rice is now being met by procuring rice stocks from neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and due to this the state government is unable to control the speculative fluctuations of commodity prices in the open market.

The share of agriculture in the state domestic product was 49.44% in 1971, but it declined to just 14% by 2010.

The state government has been trying hard to push the declining paddy cultivation in the state, allocating huge funds as well as introducing innovative projects in the last two budgets.

The state government made huge allocation for agriculture sector and around Rs 200 crore have been set aside for various projects, and concepts like rice-parks, high tech agriculture have been introduced to increase productivity.

But the initiatives seemed to have not made much of a positive change in the agriculture sector, as the land use pattern released by the state planning board shows that the net sown area in the state declined by 1.5%.

Essential food crops like rice, pulses and tapioca occupy just 10.8% out of the total gross cropped area of 266 lakh hectares.

K Prathapan, state horticulture mission director, said the state should encourage initiatives like high tech farming which have the capacity to overcome climate change, increase productivity and quality.

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# DECCAN Chronicle

Calamity-hit state wants central aid



Bengaluru: Will the state government succeed in getting adequate funds from the Union government to mitigate the devastation wrought by twin calamities of drought and floods?

Last time, after all three crops — Kharif (2011), Rabi (2011) and Kharif (2012) — failed, forcing the state to demand central assistance of RS 17,704 crore, the total amount released under the National Disaster Relief Fund was a meager Rs 749.77 crore. Even an all-party delegation to New Delhi failed to evoke a favourable response.

This time, a delegation led by animal husbandry minister T.B. Jayachandra is likely to submit a memorandum to Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar in Delhi on Thursday. The minister, accompanied by secretaries of revenue, agriculture and finance departments, is expected to seek an immediate relief of Rs 1,110 crore from the Union government.

“Drought has hit at least 161 hoblis in 80 taluks across 21 districts. But the crop loss due to drought will be determined only after the end of season - September 15. The estimated loss due

to floods is Rs 2,500 crore. However, the state is seeking a relief of Rs 735 crore for drought relief and Rs 475 crore for flood ravaged districts,” a senior official told Deccan Chronicle.

Last month, 95 taluks across 22 districts had slipped into the state’s drought ‘watch list’. By the end of August, however, 80 taluks qualified as drought affected with all three parameters - rain deficit (rainfall of less than 20 per cent), moisture stress and four consecutive weeks of dry spell.

The state government will request for release of funds for drinking water, fodder, agriculture and horticulture input subsidy, loss of property, damaged roads and bridges and crop losses among others.

States:

Karnataka

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# Business Standard

Foreign dairy players eye India entry

**Value added dairy products to see compound annual growth rate of 20 to 30% in next 4-5 years**



Expecting fast growth in value-added dairy products such as cheese and milk, foreign entities have started looking at India as a dairy product market.

“Of the top 20 dairy companies in the world, six have already set foot in India in some way or the other many others are gauging the market, considering options to enter, although the market here is very complex,” said Shiva Mudgil, assistant vice-president (food and agribusiness research and advisory), at Rabobank.

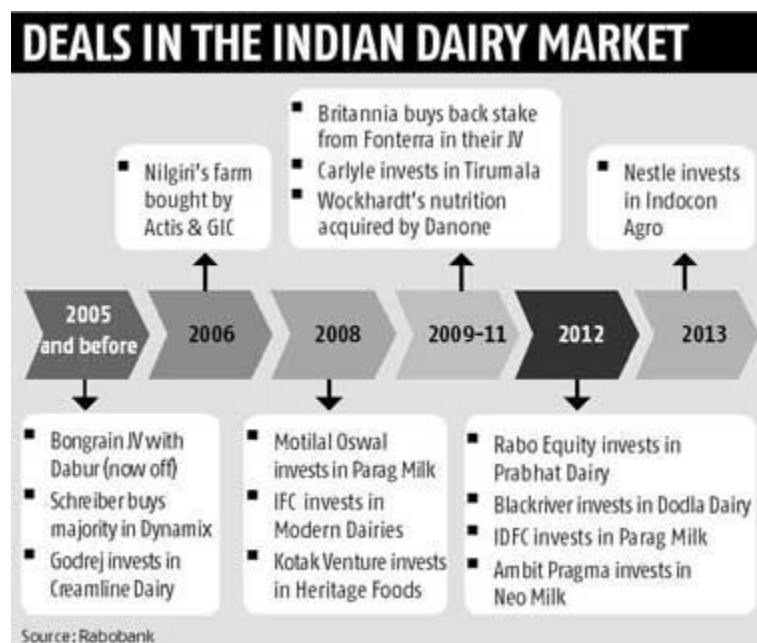
Rabobank expects value added dairy products such as yogurt, paneer, cheese, ice cream and baby food to grow at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 20 to 30 per cent in the next four to five years.

Kuldeep Saluja, managing director of Delhi-based Sterling Agro Industries, said: “Apart from Danone Food and Beverages (India), no one has yet set up production base in India. Danone, too, is outsourcing parts of its production, while New Zealand’s Fonterra is exploring possibilities of tying up with local partners. Outsourcing of production would only help local players.”

In 2012-13, India’s formal dairy market size was \$10 billion. The formal market comprises organised players such as co operatives and private entities which control the supply chain linkages. Rabobank expects this segment to grow at a CAGR of 13 to 15 per cent until 2019-20.

According to Sandeep Aggarwal, director of SMC Foods, the foreign players would opt for a partnership model with local ones, and not go for direct procurement from farmers. “They would focus on high-end value-added products like flavoured yogurt, very popular in the international market. Right now, 90-95 per cent of the Indian market is traditional liquid milk and the remaining is value-added products. Entry of foreign players will drive demand in this segment and open the value-added products segment for Indian players as well,” he explained.

Most local entities feel foreign dairy players taking interest in the market would help open it further. However, they point out that most foreign players are not keen on backward integration; they would prefer tying up with local players for production and focus on marketing and distribution.



Thanks to the rise in disposable income, there is heightened consumer interest in higher protein diets. With entities paying attention to this segment, the sector is set to grow further over the years.

Organised retail selling of value-added dairy products and the food service segment have helped the sector grow. Plus, the growth of food and coffee chains such as Cafe Coffee Day, Pizza Hut, Dominos, KFC and McDonald's are expected to help increase the consumption of value-added dairy products.

Production growth in the milk segment has been around 4 per cent CAGR in the past few years, said R G Chandramogan, chairman and managing director of Hatsun Agro Products. In comparison, consumption growth has been expanding at 11 per cent CAGR, said Saluja, adding the Indian market would continue to grow for the next 20-25 years.

Production growth in the milk segment has been around 4 per cent CAGR in the past few years, said R G Chandramogan, chairman and managing director of Hatsun Agro Products. In comparison, consumption growth has been expanding at 11 per cent CAGR, said Saluja, adding the Indian market would continue to grow for the next 20-25 years.



“After China, India is a very big dairy market. With growth in their home-markets becoming static, foreign players need to crack another big market, which is India,” said J Agarwal, director of Bhole Baba Dairy Products, which sells milk and milk products under the Krishna brand.

While local entities are not worried about the entry of foreign players they, are wary of the impact of the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU). “We strongly oppose the FTA with EU, and foreign players should not come through that route. It will only lead to dumping of dairy products in the Indian market,” said Saluja.

In India, cooperatives will still hold a large share in the organised dairy market in the coming years with some small regional entities still managing to have a strong hold. That way, organised dairy industry will still likely be the smallest formal dairy market of the BRIC countries by 2017 in value terms, the Rabobank’s report noted.

Currently, 70-80 per cent of milk is procured from small and marginal farmers. Rabobank expects this procurement pattern of milk to continue over the next decade as well. Foreign players might find this challenging and it will take some time for them to be successful in India.

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### [India slips to 7th rank in global coffee production](#)

**Despite increasing production, India was pushed below small countries like Republic of Honduras**



India’s ranking among the top coffee producing countries slipped to seventh despite a marginal rise in production in 2012, from sixth in the previous year.

In 2012, the coffee output increased 0.48 per cent to 5.25 million bags (each bag has 60 kg),

compared with 5.23 million bags in the previous year. With this, India's share in global production stands at 3.6 per cent, while Honduras' share is 3.7 per cent.

Honduras, a Central American country, which was behind India till 2010, has improved its ranking to the sixth position even after recording a 5.35 per cent drop in production to 5.4 million bags from 5.7 million bags in the previous year.

According to the International Coffee Organisation (ICO), the total coffee production in the world increased 7.18 per cent to 144.06 million bags in 2012 against 134.41 million bags in the previous year. Brazil reported an increase of 7.3 million bags to 50.8 million bags, Indonesia gained 2.3 million bags to touch 10.9 million bags while Ethiopia added 0.5 million bags to 6.5 million bags.

The area under coffee planting and bearing area in India has shown an upward trend, due to the expansion of cultivation in non-traditional areas. This suggests that growth in production was on account of area increase rather than productivity increase.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the yield level in India at 837.8 kg per hectare in 2011 was much below the Vietnam yield level of 2,187.9 kg per ha and Brazil's 1,256.7 kg per ha.

Interestingly, a comparison of productivity levels in 1971 vis-à-vis 2011 clearly suggests that India (-2.72 per cent) and Indonesia (-13.01 per cent) are the only two countries that have reported decline in the yield levels in the last 40 years. Lower productivity in India is due to limited mechanisation, pest infestation and labour shortage.

“Relatively better coffee prices have prompted the growers to follow better agronomic practices and thereby higher crop production. But on the productivity side, much more needs to be done and towards this, concerted efforts are required, both at the policy level and at farm level,” said the latest annual report of the United Planters' Association of Southern India (Upasi).

Upasi is the apex body of four major plantation crops—coffee, rubber, spices and tea—in south

India.

**HOT BREW GOING COLD**  
Coffee production in major producing countries (In '000 bags of 60 kilos each)

Country	2011	2012	% change
Brazil	43,484	50,826	<b>16.88</b>
Vietnam	24,058	22,000	<b>-8.55</b>
Indonesia	8,620	10,950	<b>27.03</b>
Colombia	7,653	8,000	<b>4.53</b>
Ethiopia	6,008	6,500	<b>8.19</b>
Honduras	5,705	5,400	<b>-5.35</b>
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>5,233</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>0.48</b>

Source: International Coffee Organisation

Among the countries ahead of India, only Vietnam reported a decline of 2.1 million bags to touch 22 million bags of coffee production in 2012. Also, most Central American countries reported lower crop.

“The crop decline was due to pre-seasonal rains during the coffee blossoming period, while in Central America, the outbreak of coffee leaf rust was considered the worst ever recorded. Production was severely affected and its likely impact on the forthcoming crop is also

anticipated to be worse,” the Upasi report said.

The damage caused by coffee leaf rust in Central America was compensated by record production from Brazil, which also ensured its undisputed reputation in the world coffee scene with a share of 35.3 per cent. Brazil was followed by Vietnam in the second position with 15.3 per cent, while Indonesia retained its third slot by improving its share at 7.6 per cent.

In Colombia, the coffee industry is still experiencing difficulties, particularly as a result of the outbreak of the coffee berry borer, which may further delay a return to the country’s normal production levels.

“The production prospects for the 2013 season are somewhat mixed due to the changes in the weather pattern across major exporting countries, which may have an adverse effect on the final crop. In Brazil, the crop is anticipated to be record higher for an off-year in the biennial cycle, and as per the CONAB, the Brazilian crop forecasting agency, the crop is anticipated to be in the region of 46.98 million bags to 50.4 million bags,” the Upasi report said.

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## Barley down 1.7% on increased selling

### September contracts slipped by 1.6%



Barley prices fell by Rs 24.50 to Rs 1,365 per quintal in future trading today on increased selling by traders driven by weak physical markets sentiment.

Marketmen said accelerating supply and fall in demand at existing higher levels in spot markets mainly put weight on futures prices of barley.

Fall in demand from beer and cattle feed making industries also support the downtrend, they said.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, barley for near October dropped by Rs 24.50, or 1.76% at Rs 1,365 per quintal in an open interest of 14,170 lots.

September contracts also slipped by Rs 22.50, or 1.66% to Rs 1,335 per quintal, showing an open interest of 10,570 lots.

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Refined soya down 1.5% on profit-bookings

**Oil for delivery in October traded lower by 1.52%**



Refined soya oil prices fell by 1.57% to Rs 702.50 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators booked profits at prevailing higher levels, driven by sluggish demand in the spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, refined soya oil for delivery in September fell by Rs 11.20, or 1.57% to Rs 702.50 per 10 kg with an open interest of 55,560 lots.

Likewise, the oil for delivery in October traded lower by Rs 10.70, or 1.52% to Rs 691.30 per 10 kg in 85,900 lots.

Analysts said besides profit booking by speculators at prevailing higher levels, sluggish demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position mainly kept pressure on refined soya oil prices at futures trade.

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**Chana down 0.8% on increased supply, weak demand**

**Chana for delivery in October traded lower by 0.65%**



Chana prices moved down by 0.89% to Rs 3,135 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators trimmed their positions, driven by a weak demand in the spot market against increased supplies from producing regions.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, chana for delivery in September declined by Rs 28, or 0.89% to Rs 3135 per quintal with an open interest of 7,808 lots.

Likewise, chana for delivery in October traded lower by Rs 21, or 0.65% to Rs 3202 per quintal in 1,18,240 lots.

Analysts said speculators trimmed their positions due to weak demand in the spot market against increased supplies from producing regions, mainly pulled down chana prices at futures trade.

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### Potato up 0.6% on rising demand

**Market men said firm demand at spot markets influenced potato prices**



In thin trade, potato prices rose by 0.65% to Rs 804 per quintal in futures market today as speculators enlarged their positions, supported by a firm trend at spot market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for delivery in September rose by Rs 5.20, or 0.65% to Rs 804 per quintal in business turnover of 17 lots.

Marketmen said the rise in potato prices at futures trade was mostly on the back of firm demand at spot markets against restricted arrivals from producing belts.

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### Cardamom up 1.5% on rising spot demand

**Cardamom for delivery in October gained 0.2%**



Cardamom prices rose 1.55% to Rs 709.80 per kg in futures trading today as speculators enlarged positions on the back of rising demand in the spot market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in September rose by Rs 10.80, or 1.55% to Rs 709.80 per kg in business turnover of 217 lots.

Similarly, cardamom for delivery in October gained Rs 1.60, or 0.20% to Rs 783.80 per kg in 258 lots.

Market analysts said besides rising demand in the spot market, tight supplies from producing regions mainly led to rise in cardamom prices at futures trade.

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### Crude palm oil prices fall 1.6% on profit-booking

#### **Palm oil for delivery in September traded lower by 1.37%**



Crude palm oil prices fell by 1.69% to Rs 551 per 10 kg in futures market today as speculators booked profits at prevailing higher levels, driven by sluggish demand in the spot market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in October fell by Rs 9.50, or 1.69% to Rs 551 per 10 kg in business turnover of 43 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in September traded lower by Rs 7.70, or 1.37% to Rs 563.70 per 10 kg in 277 lots.

Analysts said profit-booking by speculators at prevailing higher levels and sluggish demand in the spot market, mainly kept pressure on crude palm oil prices at futures trade.

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### Cotton textile sector to attract Rs 4,000-cr capex in 6 months

**The blackout period between two subsequent subsidy announcements this time was almost 18 months**



The cotton textile industry is set to attract Rs 4,000 crore investment in the next six months, with the sector set to receive the so-called margin money from the finance ministry under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (Tufs).

The government had recently decided to extend Tufs, which aims to make funds available to the textile industry for technology upgrade of existing units as well as to set up new units, to the 12th five-year Plan.

The most labour-intensive sector--spinning--is likely to get the highest benefit of the extension in Tufs. The sectors benefited are spinning, weaving, processing, technical textiles, jute, silk, garmenting, cotton ginning, wool and powerlooms.

"We have been given assurance repeatedly by the textile ministry that the amount will be released by the finance ministry soon. Considering the amount as margin money, the industry can borrow another Rs 3,200 crore as working capital from banks totalling thereby an investment of Rs 4,000 crore in the next six months," said Manikam Ramaswami, chairman, Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

Many state governments have offered schemes to attract investment in the sector away from Maharashtra and Gujarat to their states. Until now, the two states were the hot destinations for

the textile sector. But looking at the government's incentive schemes and cheap labour, investors have started shifting towards the northeastern states.

Normally, the blackout period (time difference) is three to six months between two subsequent subsidy announcements. This time, however, it was almost 18 months. Consequently, investors during this period awaited announcement of the Tufts for fresh decisions on capital expenditure.

Fresh investment in the textile sector is set to accelerate export growth. Indian exporters would be able to take advantage of the rupee depreciation, which made them more competitive globally. India-made apparels were competitive at the rupee's level of 53 against the dollar, which depreciated around 25 per cent from this level, making exports more profitable.

Texprocil believes India has the potential to grow by at least 50 per cent in apparel exports generating over \$5 billion of foreign exchange every year. Being the textile sector labour-intensive, the industry would be able to generate at least 200,000 jobs every year. Tufts was introduced on April 1, 1999. In its first 10 years, the scheme received an overwhelming success and was extended periodically.

In the newly announced Tufts, capital subsidy for new shuttleless looms has been raised from 10 to 15 per cent and the rate of interest reimbursement has been increased from five to six per cent. Further, the margin money subsidy has been increased from 20 to 30 per cent with an increase in subsidy cap from Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore.

"There was no fund available for spinning mills since April 2012. With the inclusion of TUFS in the 12th five-year Plan, the spinning mills will also get encouragement to boost investment to support overall exports," said D K Nair, secretary general, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

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Castorseed down 2.1% on profit taking

**Castorseed for October contract declined by 2%**



Castorseed prices fell by Rs 83 to Rs 3,734 per quintal in futures trading today on profit selling at existing higher levels.

Marketmen said after yesterday's rise, traders preferred to book profits.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, castorseed prices for September fell by Rs 83, or 2.17% to Rs 3,734 per quintal with an open interest of 65,990 lots.

Most active near October contract declined by Rs 80, or 2.05% to Rs 3,830 per quintal, clocking an open interest of 1,37,790 lots.

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# THE HINDU Business Line

**Tobacco Board fixes Andhra Pradesh crop size at 172 million kg**

**Asks officials to keep tab on nurseries to curb unauthorised output**



Hyderabad, Sept. 4:

The Tobacco Board, which works under the Union Commerce Ministry to regulate the crop, has fixed the crop size at 172 million kg (mkg) for Andhra Pradesh, allowing a marginal increase of two mkg over the last year's figure.

Auctions completed

"We have just completed auctions in Andhra Pradesh and the total tobacco auctioned stood at 173 million kg. Our endeavour is to encourage the farmers to look at alternative crops and go for crop rotation," Tobacco Board Chairman K. Gopal told Business Line.

The board fixes the crop size for farmers in tobacco-growing States and farmers are required to register with it to get sanction for the crop. The entire crop that goes beyond the fixed size will not be auctioned.

The board imposes penalties on such unauthorised crop. The board collected about Rs 25 crore as penalties last year. He said the board was encouraging farmers to use green manure in order to reduce dependence on chemical fertilisers.

The State, which surpassed the crop size limit slightly, also recorded the highest ever price this year.

A farmer in West Godavari district received Rs 200 a kg as against the average of Rs 145 for the year.

“Thanks to e-auction, even small buyers are able to take part in auctions,” Gopal said. Modernisation of barns, too, was underway to increase efficiency of fuel in barns.

Meanwhile, auctions have begun in Karnataka, which has a different cropping season for the crop.

The board had set a crop size of 102 million kg for that State.

#### Caution

“We have advanced the process and we would like to complete auctions by December. We don’t want to drag it too long,” the Board Chairman said. Fearing significant increase in the production of excess and unauthorised tobacco this year, the Board has asked its officials in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to keep tabs on the nurseries.

The board has a reason to be apprehensive.

The farmers received higher average of Rs 145 a kg last season. This was some Rs 25 more than the previous year.

“The staff shall have to be more vigilant and ensure that the growers stick to their production quotas. Over production of tobacco could lead to a glut in the market and fall in prices,” C.V. Subba Rao, Executive Director, of the Board said in a recent directive.

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### India, US join hands for plant health management

Hyderabad, Sept. 4:

India and the US have jointly developed and launched an international training course on plant pest risk analysis.

The Hyderabad-based, National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), under the Ministry of Agriculture, is partnering the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the initiative related to plant health management.

Pest risk analysis is an evolving and dynamic field in agricultural science and regulatory plant protection.

It examines and identifies plant pests associated with a commodity for export and outlines specific measures to mitigate the pest risk for importing countries. About 35 participants from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Tajikistan are being trained by the NIPHM faculty and experts from the USDA’s Center of Plant Health Science and Technology on the legal and regulatory framework that supports and guides the application of PRA, a release said.

The 5-day course is ending on Friday at the NIPHM campus. It is addressing regional and global training needs of the participants.

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### **Have some steaming chai, Tea Board to tell Bharat**

#### **HUL joins strategy to promote beverage in rural areas**

Coonoor, Sept 4:

The Tea Board has joined hands with Hindustan Unilever to launch an “Indian Large Rural Market” strategy to promote the beverage in interior parts of the country.

According to Tea Board Chairman M.G.V.K. Bhanu, the strategy will attempt to change the perception in rural areas that a glass of milk is better than tea, which is perceived to act only as a stimulant.

“We have to work towards changing this perception,” the Tea Board chief said, adding that a good cup of tea is essential to sustain in the domestic market.

A core committee of producers has been set up to encourage more people drink tea.

Underscoring the need to protect the domestic market for tea, Bhanu said that in the current digital age, where information is available at the click of a button, the opportunity to taste new beverages is more. “Compared to the past, consumers’ shifting to other drinks is higher,” he said.

Addressing the Commodity Outlook session at the 120th Upasi Annual Conference at Coonoor, Bhanu said that the domestic consumption of tea was between 800 million kg and 900 million kg.

A bumper crop in Kenya and India has dragged world tea prices from \$3.1 to \$2.8 a kg,.

A record 1,126.3 million kg was produced last year against 1,115.7 million kg in 2011.

Production estimates show that between January and June this year, the production was up by 15.6 million kg at 395.5 million kg.

“Tea is very sensitive to price fluctuation if the demand and supply balance is not maintained.

If there is excess supply of 10 million kg in the market, the price will drop by Rs 10-20 a kg.

But this year, the price has not fallen because of rising domestic demand. There is, therefore, a need to protect the domestic market,” he said.

According to Bhanu, any dilution on the quality front would have an adverse impact on demand.

“Unless we improve on quality, we cannot survive,” he said.

The Tea Board has issued a control order for quality implementation. Guidelines have been issued to tea factories with a warning that if the teas produced in the factories fall below the prescribed standards, the units would be penalised and even ordered to close down.

While issuing the ultimatum, the Board has also been considerate enough to give the factories time till the next season to change and produce finer teas.

#### Rising input costs

Age of the bush is another issue impacting both quality and productivity, Bhanu said and pointed out that the Board has identified about 1.48 lakh hectares of land/ bushes that are over 50 years old.

“We are targeting 50,000 hectares during the 12th Plan,” he said.

Rising input costs is affecting the domestic tea industry, according to industry players.

Speaking to Business Line on the sidelines of the 120th UPASI annual conference, they said that while the cost of production has increased 23 per cent, the impact due to wage revision has gone nearly doubled.

“A worker in South India, who used to earn a daily wage of Rs 120 about four years back, is now paid Rs 200/day. The increase in input cost cannot be ignored, but tea growers and producers have no control on the selling price of tea,” an industry source said.

Tea Board Chairman said the small tea growers’ sector was growing and the quality of teas offered by them, improving.

“We have to ensure that the price that the tea fetches in the market is commensurate with the rising cost.

The contribution by the small growers sector is significant, accounting for nearly 32 per cent of the teas,” he said.

While this is so, in Assam, Tirupura, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the sector comprising small growers is a new phenomena.

“These growers have come up on their own and without any support or guidance from research institutions.

Most of them opt for low quality, high productive clones and use pesticides indiscriminately, unlike the small growers in the South, who are better informed,” Bhanu said.

To address the problems of the small tea growers, the Board has opened 107 tea offices and posted development officers, who will act as a friend, philosopher and guide to the small tea growers, organise them in to self help groups and provide technical advice with the help of UPASI Tea Research Institute.

In a bid to serve all the stakeholders in the quickest possible time, the Board has put in place several administrative reforms starting from biometric identity cards.

“We are hoping to move to paperless office in the next 18 months,” he said

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### Pepper futures turn hot on overseas demand

Kochi, Sept. 4:

Pepper futures shot up on Wednesday on overseas demand. Consequently, the running contract moved up substantially.

Some good business was concluded last night with the US buyers at around \$6,850 a tonne and this coupled with tight supply pushed the futures up today, market sources said.

There was more buying interest for heavy pepper (570 GL) from the high ranges. However, the quality of the high range pepper was not up to the mark, they said. Sources alleged that pepper from Kottayam district is being mixed up with the high range material.

Those who have made commitments with overseas buyers were in the market to cover, they said.

Dealers from Tamil Nadu were buying high bulk density pepper directly from the door steps of the growers in Idukki at terminal market prices on cash-and-carry basis, they said.

On the spot, 48 tonnes arrived and 50 tonnes were traded at Rs 407-410 a kg.

Currency fluctuation is impacting the market as exporters were finding it difficult to make commitments, they said.

On the NMCE Sept and Oct contracts increased by Rs 603 and Rs 553 respectively to Rs 44,813 and Rs 45,200 a quintal.

Total open interest moved up by six tonnes to 55 tonnes. Total turn over went up by 20 tonnes to 39 tonnes.

Spot prices remained unchanged at Rs 40,700 (ungarbled) and Rs 42,700 (garbled) a quintal on matching demand and supply.

Indian parity has slightly moved up following strengthening of the rupee against the dollar to \$6,900-6,950 a tonne (c&f).

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### Mixed trend in spot rubber

Kottayam, Sept. 4:

Spot rubber was mixed on Wednesday. The market activities were extremely low following a strike in Kerala in protest against the hike in prices of petroleum products.

Leading counters, ruled steady despite a firm closing in the domestic futures on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

Sheet rubber closed steady at Rs 186 a kg at Kottayam and Kochi, according to traders and the Rubber Board.

While ISNR 20 improved on comparatively better demand, latex lost further on buyer resistance. Overall, volumes were low.

September futures improved to Rs 188 (Rs 185.96), October to Rs 187.35 (Rs 184.80), November to Rs 188.10 (Rs 185.80) and December to Rs 190.17 (Rs 187.47) on the NMCE.

RSS 3 (spot) bounced back to Rs 180.97 (Rs 176.65) at Bangkok. September futures closed at ₹269.6 (Rs 181.52) on Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 186 (186); RSS-5: 182.50 (182.50); Ungraded: 176 (176); ISNR 20: 169 (167) and Latex 60%: 139 (141).

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### More tea on offer at Coonoor sale

Coonoor, Sept. 4:

A volume of 12.37 lakh kg has been catalogued for Sale No: 36 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions to be held on Thursday and Friday, according to an analysis of brokers' listings. It is some 4,000 kg more than last week's offer but 39,000 kg less than the volume offered at the same time last year.

Of the 12.37 lakh kg on offer, 9.16 lakh kg belongs to the leaf grades and 3.21 lakh kg belongs to the dust grades. As much as 11.82 lakh kg belongs to CTC variety and only 0.55 lakh kg, orthodox variety. The proportion of orthodox teas continues to be low in both the leaf and dust grades. In the leaf counter, only 0.31 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 8.85 lakh kg, CTC. Among the dusts, only 0.24 lakh kg belongs to orthodox while 2.97 lakh kg, CTC.

Of the 12.37 lakh kg coming up for sale, fresh tea accounts for 10.79 lakh kg. As much as 1.58 lakh kg comprises teas which had remained unsold in previous auctions.

Among CTC teas last week, Pekoe Dust of Homedale Estate, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped the market when Jaykay Enterprises bought it for Rs 177 a kg.

Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging Rs 66-71 a kg for plain leaf grades and Rs 115-150 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 75-80 for plain dusts and Rs 120-170 for brighter liquoring dusts.

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### Plantation sector unable to harvest the right talent

Coonoor, Sept 4:

Despite doing reasonably well, the plantation industry is unable to attract or recruit the right talent, a senior industry official said.

Talking to *Business Line* on the sidelines of the 120th annual conference of the United Planters' Association of Southern India, the official said manpower shortage is quite acute in this industry. Emphasising the need to get something done soon, he said despite the functioning of the Indian Institute of Plantation Management, the industry has been unable to get the right candidates for managing the estates. Youngsters prefer to join the software industry rather than the plantation sector

"Our concern is that the industry will get fragmented if the situation persists," the official, who did not want to be quoted, said.

Labour productivity is another area where there is considerable scope for improvement. Improved production and productivity at the farm level are of paramount importance for the health of the industry. With costs skyrocketing and beyond the control of producers, increasing land productivity would help reduce production cost to some extent.

"Less than 50 per cent of farm practices are mechanised. Mechanisation has happened only in weeding and plucking. We have a long way to go," he said.

To add to the woes of the industry, the rising cost of petrol and diesel is set to affect the industry.

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### Profit booking crushes castor futures



Rajkot, Sept. 4:

Castor futures decreased on the back of profit booking by traders, while spot price continued to rise on strong domestic demand.

On the Rajkot Commodity Exchange, castor September contracts lost Rs 97 at Rs 3,784 a quintal and December contract Rs 20 at Rs 3,980.

Spot castor on the exchange was up by Rs 52.50 to Rs 3,647.50.

Castor oil decreased Rs 15 to Rs 755 for 10 kg.

On the NCDEX, castor September contracts declined by Rs 98 to Rs 3,719 with an open interest of 51,240 lots.

The most active October contract was traded down by Rs 93 to 3,817 with an open interest of 143,350 lots.

About 60,000-65,000 bags castor seed arrived in Gujarat and the price was Rs 725-740 for 20 kg.

Around 7,000-7,500 bags arrived in Saurashtra for Rs 680-731.

A trader said that spot prices remained firm as domestic demand was high.

However, increasing arrivals capped the gain.

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### Poultry feed could rule at current level next few days



Karnal, Sept. 4:

With the cost of production being steady, prices of poultry feed products remained unchanged.

Aditya Mishra, a commodity expert, told *Business Line* that good demand and steady input cost kept feed products unchanged and may continue to rule around current levels for the next few days.

Key ingredients of poultry feed have been ruling in a tight range, he said.

In the physical market, after witnessing a drastic fall last weekend, soyameal improved by Rs 645 to Rs 33,900 a tonne. Bajra improved marginally by Rs 20 to Rs 1,380-1,480 a quintal,

while di-calcium phosphate went up by 30 paise to Rs 34 a kg. MBM moved down by 20 paise and sold at 33 a kg, while maize lost Rs 30 to Rs 1,480-1,550 a quintal.

Prices of mustard de-oiled cake increased by Rs 300 to Rs 15,000 a tonne.

#### Feed products

After witnessing an uptrend last weekend, feed products remained unchanged on Wednesday.

Broiler concentrate feed was Rs 2,020 for a 50-kg bag, while Broiler Starter Mash sold at Rs 1,530. Pre-lay mash sold at Rs 1,040. Layer concentrate 25 per cent sold at Rs 1,490 while layer concentrate 35 per cent was at Rs 1,175.

#### Poultry Products

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

Broiler remained unchanged and quoted at Rs 86-88 a kg, egg went down by 5 paise and sold at Rs 3.12, while chick went for Rs 22-24, Re 1 up from previous level.

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#### Stockists keep off edible oils market



Mumbai, Sept. 4:

Barring palmolein and rapeseed oil which rose by Rs 5 and Rs 8 for 10 kg respectively, all other edible oils ruled steady tracking weak futures and need-based demand.

Tracking weak sentiments, stockists in the local market kept away from fresh bets. Needy traders bought about 40-50 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 605 ex-JNPT in isolated resale trade.

There were no commitments directly with local refineries as their prices were higher, said sources.

Towards the day's close, Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 620, super palmolein Rs 650 and super deluxe Rs 670, soyabean refined oil Rs 680 and sunflower refined oil Rs 835.

Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 618 ex Patalganga and Rs 610 ex JNPT, soyabean refined oil Rs 677 and sunflower refined oil Rs 830.

Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 618, super palmolein Rs 650, soyabean refined oil Rs 685 and sunflower refined oil Rs 845. Gokul's rates were Rs 610 for palmolein.

At Rajkot, groundnut oil was steady at Rs 1,325 for *telia* tin and loose (10 kgs) Rs 850 .

Soyabean arrivals were 50,000 bags in Madhya Pradesh and its prices were Rs 3,350-3,450 ex mandi and Rs 3,500-3,600 for plant delivery. Mustard seed arrivals were 80,000 bags and prices were Rs 3,300-3,775.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's October contracts closed lower at MYR 2,402 (MYR 2,419), November MYR 2,399 (MYR 2,417) and December at MYR 2,399 (MYR 2,419).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 860 (860), soya refined oil 675(675), sunflower exp. ref. 750 (750), sunflower ref. 830(830), rapeseed ref. oil 743(735), rapeseed expeller ref. 713(705) cottonseed ref. oil 670(670) and palmolein 605(600).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 660/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein-forward delivery.

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### Festival demand likely to keep sugar steady



Mumbai, Sept. 4:

Sugar prices ruled steady on Wednesday due to routine demand and supply.

Prices are unlikely to rise as producers and markets are carrying surplus stocks. But prices won't fall rapidly either due to disparity as they are already ruling below cost of production.

Expectation of higher consumption demand during festival months will support the uptrend, said an observer.

Vashi market witnessed routine volume with no change in prices in spot, naka and mill level.

Arrivals in the Vashi market were 62-63 truckloads (100 bags each) while local dispatches were 61-62 loads. On Tuesday, 18-19 mills offered tenders and sold about 74,000-75,000 bags at Rs 2,880-2,960 (Rs 2,880-2,960) for S-grade and Rs 2,990-3,060 (Rs 2,990-3,060) for M-grade.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 3,026-3,135 (Rs 3,032-3,135) and M-grade Rs 3,132-3,312 (Rs 3,132-3,312). *Naka* delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,965-3,040 (Rs 2,965-3,040) and M-grade Rs 3,090-3,220 (Rs 3,090-3,220).

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

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## Bears may take grip of urad on new arrivals



Indore, Sept. 4:

Pulse seeds and pulses were sluggish on slack demand and weak buying support.

Weak demand in pulses dragged tur (Maharashtra) on Wednesday to Rs 4,500 a quintal, while tur (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at Rs 4,000-4,100.

Tur dal (full) was Rs 6,000-6,100, tur dal (sawa no.) at Rs 5,600-5,900 while tur marka ruled at Rs 7,100 respectively.

Besides weak demand, dry weather conditions in Madhya Pradesh over the last one week have improved prospects of the crop output in tur, moong and urad.

The area under pulses has increased to 93.25 lakh hectares this year against 74.48 lakh hectares last year.

With heavy rains lashing the State during June-August, traders and farmers were apprehending damage to standing crops due to water-logging.

However, with weather clearing up, prices of pulse seeds have begun to drop, said a trader .

Urad (bold) quoted at Rs 3,600-50, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,000-3,300. With arrival of new urad in mandis barely a fortnight away, bearish sentiment will likely to continue in urad in the coming days.

Urad dal (medium) was being quoted at Rs 4,200-4,300, urad dal (bold) at Rs 4,400-4,600, while urad mongar ruled at Rs 4,800-5,200.

Moong (bold) in Indore mandis ruled at Rs 4,500-4,600 (down Rs 600 from last week), while moong (medium) Rs 4,000-4,300.

Moong dal (medium) ruled at Rs 5,400-5,500, moong dal (bold) at Rs 5,600-5,700, while moong mongar was ruling at Rs 6,100-6,400 a quintal respectively.



## Lack of N. Indian orders grinds turmeric



Erode, Sept. 4:

With the absence of upcountry demand, turmeric sale in Erode is limited.

“Almost all the bulk buyers and exporters are buying only 10 or 15 bags for local demand and not buying any bulk stock as they have not yet received any upcountry orders. Further, the local demand is also on the wane. This may be due to sufficient stocks with traders in North India and also local masala firms,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Traders in North India are not placing fresh orders with Erode growers but are buying few bags from Assam, Warangal and some other places.

On Wednesday, 3,490 bags of turmeric arrived for sale, 60 per cent was sold.

Stockists purchased 350 bags, and the rest was procured by local traders and exporters .

At Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,718-6,007; the root variety Rs 3,521-5,377 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 4,861-6,399 and the root variety Rs 4,664-5,699.

Of the 765 bags that arrived, 387 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,811-5,899; the root variety Rs 4,649-5,517.

Of the 616 bags put up for sale, 485 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,811-5,999; the root variety Rs 4,564-5,424.

Of the 728 bags on offer, 678 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 5,242-5,987; the root variety Rs 4,601-5,242.

All the 159 bags were traded.

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