

Date : 06.09.2013

THE HINDU

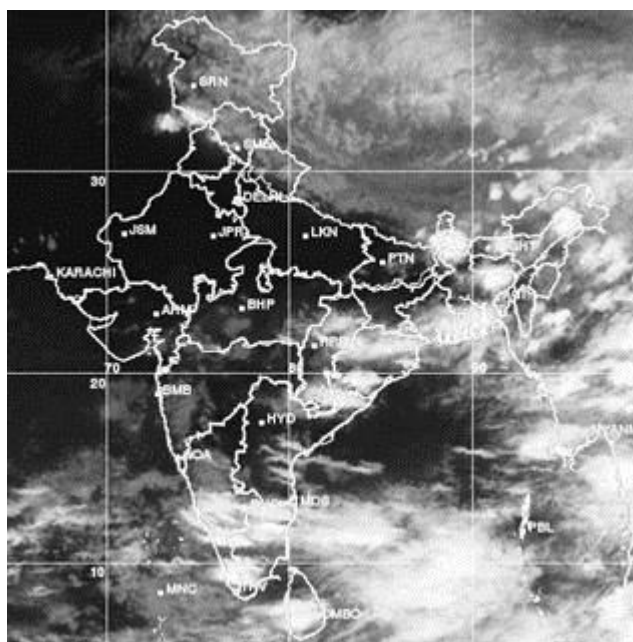
Fix sugarcane procurement price: sangha

Members of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) and Hasiru Sene have sought fixation of the sugarcane procurement price at Rs. 3,500 a tonne for 2013-14.

KRRS and Hasiru Sene president Kodihalli Chandrashekhar said that factories are procuring sugarcane in south Karnataka for a price between Rs. 2,100 and Rs. 2,400 per tonne promising the farmers the balance amount after the fixation of the price by the government.

“Private factories will offer price based on that fixed by Mysore Sugar Company Limited in Mandya. Since MSCL is incurring huge loss due to maladministration, the price fixed by it should not be treated as the price for the entire State,” he added.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on September 5th.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	35	25	0	518
New Delhi (Sfd)	35	25	0	781
Chandigarh	35	23	tr	781
Hissar	35	24	0	507
Bhuntar	32	16	0	399
Shimla	23	15	1	780
Jammu	33	24	0	1185
Srinagar	29	13	0	217
Amritsar	35	25	0	747
Patiala	34	21	32	722
Jaipur	37	24	0	661
Udaipur	31	23	0	656
Allahabad	34	25	0	943
Lucknow	35	24	0	707
Varanasi	35	26	0	741
Dehradun	31	21	tr	2705
Agartala	33	25	63	778
Ahmedabad	34	24	0	749
Bangalore	27	20	1	521
Bhubaneshwar	33	26	tr	696
Bhopal	30	22	0	1113
Chennai	34	25	0	486
Guwahati	29	25	8	733
Hyderabad	31	22	0	527
Kolkata	35	28	0	1440
Mumbai	33	26	0	2060
Nagpur	33	23	0	1328
Patna	34	27	0	553
Pune	30	20	0	535
Thiruvananthapuram	31	23	10	901
Imphal	31	23	3	831
Shillong	23	18	tr	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

Rain/thundershowers have occurred at isolated places over Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Weather was dry over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm are: (2 cm and above) HARYANA: Nilokheri 3, HIMACHAL PRADESH: Gohar 4, JAMMU AND KASHMIR: Banihal 2, PUNJAB: Shahpurkandi 6, Samrulen and Patiala 3 each, Balachaur, Nawanshahr and Nangal 2 each and UTTARAKHAND: Dunda 4 and Munsiyari 3.

FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 07th SEPTEMBER 2013: Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Weather would be mainly dry over rest of the region.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 07th SEPTEMBER 2013: Mainly clear sky.

Vegetable prices come down

Farm Fresh consumer outlets run by the co-operative societies reduced the cost of three vegetables on Wednesday. Officials of the Co-operative department said that one kg of tomatoes are priced at Rs.10; ladies fingers at Rs.15 and capsicum at Rs.40. The price was reduced as the market price had come down due to fresh arrivals.

Egg rate

The National Egg Coordination Committee egg rate was Rs. 3.40 on Thursday.

Plan to disburse Rs.4,500 crore as crop loan to farmers in State

Ministers review performance of cooperatives in Ramnad, Sivaganga, Virudhunagar districts

The government has planned to disburse Rs.4,500 crore as crop loan to agriculturists all over the State during 2013-14.

Minister for Cooperation Sellur K. Raju, who reviewed the performance of cooperative societies in Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and Virudhunagar districts, along with the Minister for Information and Special Programme Implementation, K.T. Rajendhira Balaj, here on Thursday, said that Rs.16.37 crore was disbursed as crop loan to 2,361 farmers in Virudhunagar district for the financial year 2013-14 up to August 31 this year while the amount stood at Rs. 5.53 crore – given to 1,188 farmers – in Sivaganga district, and Rs.3.38 crore – to 675 farmers – in Ramanathapuram district.

During the financial year 2012-13, while crop loans of Rs.75.46 crore was disbursed to 14,683 farmers in Virudhunagar district, Rs.56.83 crore was given to 19,516 farmers in Sivaganga and Rs.52.73 crore was distributed to 15,669 farmers in Ramanathapuram district.

Deposits

The government had planned to collect deposits to the tune of Rs.10,044 crore from all over the State during the year 2013-14. Of this, Rs.961 crore was collected from Virudhunagar district up to August 31, as against Rs.893.86 crore collected during the whole of the previous financial year.

As much as Rs.433 crore was collected from Sivaganga district during the year 2013-14 as against Rs.848 crore during the previous year.

In Ramanathapuram, Rs. 516.90 crore was mobilised during 2013-14 as against 471.68 crore during the last year.

Mr.Raju urged the newly elected members of the administrative committee of societies to exceed the target in mobilising the deposits.

Stating that loans were disbursed to eligible women, differently-abled persons and to members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, he said 51 godowns were built in Virudhunagar district, 76 in Sivaganga district and 47 in Ramanathapuram district out of a total of 2,270 godowns constructed all over the State during the year 2012-13 as part of the infrastructure development.

He expressed hope that the farmers could store their produce in the godowns on a nominal rent and get loans by mortgaging them.

Drought relief

The Minister for Cooperation said that drought relief to the tune of Rs. 47.46 crore was given to 93,555 farmers in Virudhunagar district whose crops had suffered damage beyond 50 per cent and Rs.66.87 crore was disbursed to 1,49,573 farmers in Sivaganga district and Rs. 131.08 crore was distributed to 2,25,315 farmers in Ramanathapuram district.

As many as 328.654 tonnes of rice was sold through retail sales centres in these three districts at the rate of Rs.20 a kg, he said.

Fair price shops

Mr. Raju said that the government had opened 13 part-time fair price shops in Virudhunagar district, 20 part-time and one full-time shop in Sivaganga district, and 10 part-time and two full-time shops in Ramanathapuram district during the last two years to ensure essentials like rice, sugar and kerosene were available to the consumers in their residential areas.

Registrar of Cooperative Societies P. Seetharaman, and Collector T.N.Hariharan were also present.

-
- *2,270 godowns constructed across the State to help farmers store their produce*

- ***328.654 tonnes of rice sold through retail sales centres at the rate of Rs.20 a kg***
-

Areca farmers may get additional payouts soon

The State government will soon take a decision on extending special compensation package for arecanut growers who have suffered loss due to excess rain, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said.

The total loss to arecanut growers over fruit-rot disease or koleroga following severe downpour in the State this year stands at Rs. 789 crore.

Currently, an amount of Rs. 12,000 was paid per hectare as compensation under National Disaster Response Fund for loss of plantation crop.

A decision in this regard would be taken shortly, Mr. Siddaramaiah told presspersons after visiting arecanut plantations infected with koleroga in Tirthahalli taluk on Thursday.

The Centre will be apprised of the loss suffered by arecanut growers, he said. As arecanut plantations in region have been suffering because of koleroga for the past few years, the farmers should contemplate on shifting to alternative crops, he said.

-
- ***The total loss to arecanut growers: Rs. 789 crore***
 - ***Current amount of compensation per hectare: Rs. 12,000***
-

Cooperative sugar mill to produce ethanol in joint venture with PDL

To offset a portion of its losses, the Puducherry Cooperative Sugar Mill, Lingareddypalayam, is expected to launch a new Joint Venture (JV) with the Pondicherry Distilleries Limited to set up an ethanol plant.

Pondicherry Distilleries Limited is one of the two Public Limited Undertakings of Puducherry Government, which are making profits.

Industry sources told *The Hindu* that though it was originally planned to approach the Chennai Petroleum Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation to set up a plant at the sugar mill premises, it had been decided to shelve the idea.

Instead, a decision was taken to involve the Pondicherry Distilleries Limited as it was an institution of the Puducherry government. Moreover, the PDL already possessed license to produce ethanol and there was no need to apply for the same as it was a tough process.

The government had also given green signal to take steps to install the plant to produce ethanol by utilising molasses at the sugar mill.

The move is expected to offset a portion of loss of the mill, which has already crossed a whopping Rs. 150 crore.

As per the proposal, the Pondicherry Distilleries Limited will invest Rs. 15 crore as its share capital. On its part, the Puducherry Cooperative Sugar Mill will provide land and molasses, which is the main raw material for producing ethanol.

New company

The new company will set up machinery and others for the ethanol unit. It will be run by a separate board consisting of senior officials of Puducherry government and the cooperative mill.

While agreeing to the move, M. Rajasekar, Managing Director, PCSM Ltd. told *The Hindu* that the JV proposal was at an advanced level. Out of 120 acres owned by the mill, 20 acres could be utilised for the ethanol plant. Though the sugar mill itself could set up the plant, it had no resources at the moment.

The chances of getting loan from the lending agencies had also been ruled out as it had huge debt burden. However, there wouldn't be any problem for getting loan through the Joint Venture, which was to be registered under the Companies Act. It could also get 40 per cent subsidy for setting up of ethanol plant as it was a clean renewable energy, Mr. Rajasekar said.

Lot of hope in dairy farming sector: Joseph

Says price hike benefited farmers in the last two years

It is the dairy farming sector that presents hope in the agricultural scene of the State, Minister for Dairy Development Minister K.C. Joseph has said.

Speaking after inaugurating the meeting of dairy farmers of Edakkad block and also the work on the Farmers Facilitation Centre at the Muzhappala Anjarakandy Dairy Production Cooperative Society on Thursday, Mr. Joseph said even while other farming sectors recorded setbacks, dairy farming provided a minimum security to the farmer.

This was because even though Malabar produced more milk than required, the State was still lacking in two lakh litres of milk.

Mr. Joseph said the departments of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development were concertededly working for the welfare of dairy farmers. Every hike in milk price in the last two

years had been beneficial to the farmer. Hikes in price resulted in a simultaneous increase in dairy production, Mr. Joseph noted.

The Minister said steps had been taken to disburse the hiked pension amount for dairy farmers before Onam.

K.K. Narayanan, MLA, presided over the function. Edakkad Block panchayat president V.K. Prakashini and Dairy Development Department Deputy Director Thampi Mathew were felicitated.

-
- *Farm facilitation centre inaugurated*
 - *Steps to disburse hiked pension to farmers*
-



Guar gum export falls sharply; basmati, wheat, dairy show rise

The sharp fall in guar gum shipment has pulled down the growth in India's agricultural and processed food exports in the first quarter of 2013-14.

Export of guar gum, used in oil exploration dropped more than 57 per cent, which resulted in a moderate growth in overall agricultural exports during the quarter at around 6 per cent.

Data from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA) showed that exports of Basmati rice, wheat, fresh vegetables, fruits and meat saw a sharp rise during first quarter. The country's total agricultural exports stood at more than Rs 12 lakh crore during the year 2012-13.

In the first quarter of the current year, the export value of guar gum fell to Rs 4,702 crore from Rs 11,000 crore in the year-ago period. "Due to decline in demand from oil and gas explorers, guar gum exports have declined sharply this year," a commerce ministry official said.

In April-June, 2013, India's agricultural exports from the APEDA basket has grown marginally to Rs 34,132 crore from Rs 32,061 crore in the year-ago period.

Exports of Basmati rice has increased by 67 per cent year-on-year to Rs 11,178 crore. Realisations from wheat exports posted a 287 per cent rise year-on-year to Rs 3,953 crore during the quarter.

Other commodities which saw an increase include dairy products (Rs 797 crore), pulses (Rs 489 crore), meat (Rs 5087 crore), fresh fruits (Rs 1106 crore) and fresh vegetables (Rs 845 crore).

hindustantimes

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 0
Humidity: 53
Wind: normal

Thursday, Sep 5

Max Min

34° | 26°

Sunrise: 05:57
Sunset: 06:17
Barometer: 1005

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Friday, Sep 6

Max Min

34° | 24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday Sep 7	Sunday Sep 8	Monday Sep 9	Tuesday Sep 10	Wednesday Sep 11
35° 25°	34° 24°	33° 23°	33° 23°	33° 24°
Cloudy	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast

Airport Weather

Delhi

Rain: 0 Sunrise: 06:00
Humidity: 56 Sunset: 06:38
Wind: normal Barometer: 1002



THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Onion and cotton exports may lose export incentives



Products like onion and cotton are likely to lose export incentives as there are restrictions on their outbound shipments.

NEW DELHI: Products like onion and cotton are likely to lose export incentives as there are restrictions on their outbound shipments, a senior commerce ministry official said today.

The matter is under active consideration of the Commerce Ministry. The issue came up during a meeting of senior officials of the ministry recently.

"The senior officials pointed out that some products like onion and cotton are on one hand availing export incentives under Focus Market Scheme (FMS) or Focus Product Scheme (FPS) while on the other hand there are curbs on their exports," the official told PTI.

The objective of the FMS is to offset the high freight cost and other disabilities to select international markets with a view to enhancing export competitiveness.

It allows a duty credit of 2.5 per cent of free-on-board value of exports to countries that are identified as focus markets by the government. The duty credit may be used for import of inputs or goods including capital goods.

And, the products covered under FPS are entitled for 2 per cent duty credit scrip.

In the case of onion, the government has fixed minimum export price of USD 650 per tonne and the commodity also avail export incentive under FMS or FPS.

"It is not logical that on one hand we are giving incentives to boost the export and on the other hand also putting restrictions on the shipments," the official added.

Similarly, the government has imposed quantitative restrictions on the exports of cotton and cotton yarn.

Exporters can apply for registration certificate (RC) for a maximum quantity of 30,000 bales or actual quantity exported in the previous cotton season, whichever is less. One bale contains 170 kg of cotton.

India is the world's second largest cotton producer. Cotton production was estimated to be around 340 lakh bales for the 2012-13 cotton season (October to September).

India's cotton exports are likely to remain flat at around 100 lakh bales (170 kg each) in the 2013-14 season due to lesser demand from China. China is the biggest importer of the Indian natural fibre.

Monsoon rainfall 30% below average in past week



Rainfall was 30 percent below average in the week ending Sept. 4 compared with 29 percent below the previous week, the weather office's latest data showed.

NEW DELHI: Monsoon was less than average for a second straight week but with summer crops such as rice, cane, soybean and cotton well established after swift planting in a heavy start to the season, an early end to the rains should not create problems.

Rainfall was 30 percent below average in the week ending Sept. 4 compared with 29 percent below the previous week, the weather office's latest data showed on Thursday.

The monsoon rains usually start retreating from western India by mid-September, but this year they could lift earlier. Summer crops do not need heavy rains at this stage of growth but just sporadic showers to aid the maturing process.

The monsoon, vital for 55 percent of Indian farmland that does not have irrigation, was the heaviest in nearly two decades during the first half of the season with the fastest ever coverage of the country - almost a month ahead of schedule.

The ample rains from the beginning of the monsoon season in June make bumper harvests

likely and that will mean higher rural incomes in the world's second most populous country, which could improve retail sales and help rural growth.

India, one of the world's biggest producers and consumers of farm commodities, is heavily reliant on the annual monsoon for its huge harvests of rice, sugar and cash crops like cotton.

Soybean futures gain on global cues



At the NCDEX, soybean prices for far January contract spurted by Rs 69.50, or 1.91 pc to Rs 3,561 per quintal, with an open interest of 3,090 lots.

NEW DELHI: Soybean prices hardened by Rs 69.50 to Rs 3,561 per quintal in futures trading today on traders' buying on the back of firm overseas markets sentiment.

Marketmen said thin supply and pick up in domestic demand mainly supported the upsurge in futures trade.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, soybean prices for far January contract spurted by Rs 69.50, or 1.91 per cent to Rs 3,561 per quintal, with an open interest of 3,090 lots.

Most active near November contract surged by Rs 63.50, or 1.79 per cent to Rs 3,508 per quintal, having an open interest of 1,14,030 lots.

October month contracts also advanced by Rs 61, or 1.71 per cent to Rs 3,497.50 per quintal, in an open interest of 90,650 lots.

Sugar extends losses on ample supply, weak demand



Demand is likely to rise in the spot markets in the coming weeks due to festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, dealers said.

MUMBAI: Sugar futures extended the previous session's losses on Thursday on a forecast of surplus production for a fourth-straight year in a row amid weak demand for exports.

At 0937 GMT, the key October contract was down 0.20 percent at 3,010 rupees (\$44.96) per 100 kg on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange.

"Mills are holding lots of stocks from this year's bumper production. From next month, the new season will start and inventory will rise further," said an analyst at Indiabulls Commodities.

"Mills need substantial improvement in demand to cut inventory. Export demand can help them, but right now they are not getting exports orders."

A weak rupee increases returns of sugar exporters. The rupee hit a record low last week.

Demand is likely to rise in the spot markets in the coming weeks due to festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, dealers said.

Sugar output in the country, is expected to exceed the current year's 25 million tonnes in the marketing year beginning October, higher than the local demand of around 23 million tonnes.

Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the top two sugar producing states, have received more than normal rainfall since the start of the monsoon on June 1, weather department data showed, boosting prospects of higher production.

Spot sugar rose by Rs 9 to Rs 3,034 per 100 kg at the Kolhapur market in Maharashtra state.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Kerala should mechanize rubber latex harvesting: Expert

KOCHI: Kerala should opt for the mechanisation of rubber latex harvesting, said Jay Nambiar, chief executive officer of Hevea-Tech Pvt Ltd, a Kuala Lumpur-based rubber technology consultancy, on Thursday. He was talking on the sidelines of Asian Latex Conference being held at Ramada Resort in Kochi. The two-day conference will end on Friday.

"Kerala should find urgent techniques for reducing the dependence on labour for harvesting the rubber latex. It should either mechanise the harvesting method or should improve on the existing method," said Nambiar, who is also the chairman of the conference. He also said that the state should move towards value-added technology to develop materials for niche markets that could improve the profitability of industries. He further stated that the growth of synthetic rubber market wouldn't affect the country's natural rubber market as 90% of the products are a blend of these two grades.

Rubber Board chairman Sheela Thomas said in her inaugural address that there is a steady increase in the use of natural rubber latex-based medical products, physical fitness aids and other products like household gloves.

According to the figures presented by Thomas, Asia accounts for 85% of the latex consumption and it is the fast growing market for latex-based products. "Malaysia tops in the production and export of latex-based products and its consumption was around 3.7 lakh tonne in 2012. In India, rubber consumption is mainly in dry forms and latex accounts for only 7.5% of the total rubber consumption," she said.

C Vinayaraghavan, president - SBU B, Harrisons Malayalam Ltd, commented that there should be a clonal exchange programme between the countries to increase the productivity of rubber trees. He also focused on the necessity of better preservation techniques for rubber latex.

India Rubber Summit 2013 will take place on Saturday.

Onion selling at Rs 60 per kg in retail markets

NAGPUR: Even as onions had got a little cheaper over a week ago, the relief was short-lived for the consumers. The rates had touched Rs50 per kg and a further reduction was hoped. Contrary to the expectations, the price has increased to Rs60/kg in the retail markets and traders say that it may consolidate at this level till October at least.

The supplies from Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh had eased the rates, but a host of factors have led to the price rise again. Last week income tax department made inquiries with the onion traders at Nashik, suspecting a likely tax evasion in light of the skyrocketing rates. "This also led to a panic in the market and supplies which had been already low were further reduced," said a trader at Kalamna agriculture produce market yard. The supply from Andhra Pradesh too is available at Rs40 to 45 per kg in the wholesale market itself.

The tax sleuths are keen to know if there has been any income tax evasion by traders who may have made a killing by hoarding the stock to sell it at a higher rate. "They were questioning about the source of purchases and to whom the stock has been sold," said a trader.

Mohammed Afzal of M/s Afzal Trading Co at Kalamna said the wholesale rates have jumped by Rs300 a maund (per 40kg) in a week. On Thursday, the rates closed at Rs1,850 a maund, which comes to about Rs40 per kg in the wholesale markets. The retailers are selling it at Rs60 per kg, he said.

However, Azad Bhai, a retailer at Gokulpeth market, said on Thursday the auctions at Kalamna ended at Rs2,000 a maund for the best quality onions. White onions, the largely consumed variety in the region, is being sold at Rs70 per kg in retail markets, he said.

Stocks from places around Nagpur were expected to arrive by September but excessive rains damaged the crops. "Now, the market have to once again depend on arrivals from Nashik, which are already on a low," he added.

However, wholesalers from Kalamna refuted the possibility of onion rates touching Rs70 per kg in the retail segment.

Apart from onions, there has been a marginal increase of Rs4 to 5 per kg in the rates of chilli too. Good quality chilli powder is available at Rs80 a kg in the retail market. This is due to different reasons. A stronger dollar has increased the export demand for the commodity. Apart from it there has been considerable hike in the domestic demand too, said a trader.

Chief secretary wants long-term agriculture plan

RANCHI: The chief secretary has asked the agriculture department to innovate and plan long-term projects, which would go a long way in helping farmers, and asked the short-staffed department to decentralize power.

At a review meeting of the department on Thursday, chief secretary R S Sharma said the target achievement should also be the main focus.

The department faces acute shortage of staff. The issue was raised in the review meeting and Sharma asked officials to work out a recruitment manual for recruitment of the needful staff.

Asking the agricultural officials to work out the recruitment manual in two months, Sharma instructed them to decentralize power.

"The responsibility should be given to officers working at various levels," said Sharma.

The officials of the agriculture department told the chief secretary about the developments in the fields of cash-chew production. The chief secretary appreciated the developments and said that the state government would focus on the plantation of cash-chew. "It is a cash-crop and would give better returns to the farmers," said Sharma.

The emphasis was also on the development of infrastructure that is used in the field of agriculture. The government will develop more cold storages and processing plants in the state, an official release said.

DECCAN Chronicle

Tamil Nadu flower senganthal helps beat gout



Ooty: Gloriosa lily (senganthal poo in Tamil), the state flower of Tamil Nadu, which is otherwise called glory lily and tiger claw flower, has begun to bloom in good numbers in the jungles around Gudalur.

While the status it enjoys reflected in its beauty and importance, the botanists and greens vouch that the government should take up for commercial cultivation of this glorious flower as its alkaloids and related derivatives are not only used to treat diseases like gout, but also fetch premium price in the medicinal market.

S. Sivasubramaniam, president of the Pandalur-based Centre for Consumer Human Resource and Environment Protection, said the bloom of Gloriosa Lily in the jungles brought colors to the hills especially as they were getting ready for the autumn tourist season.

“Glory Lily is a spectacular flower. While they are buds the pale green petals face downward. As the blossom, the petals elongate and wrinkle and gradually arch backward with brilliant colors that give the flower an extraordinary look and charm. The agro-climatic conditions in the Gudalur belt, in Nilgiris, are very suitable for these flowers,” he said.

Meanwhile, Dr.S.Rajan, a renowned botanist here and senior scientist at the Central Homeopathic Medicinal Plants Survey and Collection Unit, said Gloriosa Lily and its plant as a whole was known for its colchicines, a natural chemical compound which was still very useful in treating gout and rheumatic disorders.

This plant is grown for commercial purpose in some districts in Tamil Nadu. In Nilgiris, so far there is no record of commercial cultivation. But, it can be initiated. Some tribes are known to use the tubers of this plant to use it as Emetic agent, he added.



GOVT TO PROCURE 25 LAKH METRIC TONNES PADDY FROM FARMERS

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to procure 25 lakh metric tonnes of paddy from the farmers in the state starting from October 1.

State Chief Secretary Javed Usmani said here that 3250 purchasing centers would procure the paddy till February 28, 2014.

The directions were given in a high level meeting held here on Thursday to review the paddy procurement process. Senior officials of the Agriculture department and officials from APC branch attended the meeting.

Chief Secretary said after government received reports of non-payment of money to bonafide farmers Government has decided that this time the farmers would be made payment through account payee cheques or through RTGS by transferring the amount directly in their bank account.

"Of the total procurement, 10 per cent or 2.5 lakh tonne of paddy would be procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) while the remaining would be purchased by different state government agencies," the Chief Secretary said.

Every purchase centers would be two electronic weighing machines while generator would be kept for power back, he said and added: "Government would ensure that farmers get good remunerative price of their produce."

As complaints galore about paucity of space to store paddy Usmani said that the total storage capacity of paddy is state is of 37.65 lakh tonnes so there will be no problem to store the targeted paddy.

Business Standard

Tea Board urges branding as export strategy

Board in talks with Indian tea industry for branding initiatives; to seek help of IBEF



To increase export, the Tea Board of India has proposed encouraging producers to come up with specific brands aimed at foreign markets.

“We have failed in branding Indian tea in export markets because we are bulk exporters. We don’t export good packaged tea in value-added form. Tea is consumed all over the world in blended form. There is no English morning tea without Assam tea in it. But we have not marketed it as Indian tea in international markets,” said Tea Board Chairman M G V K Bhanu.

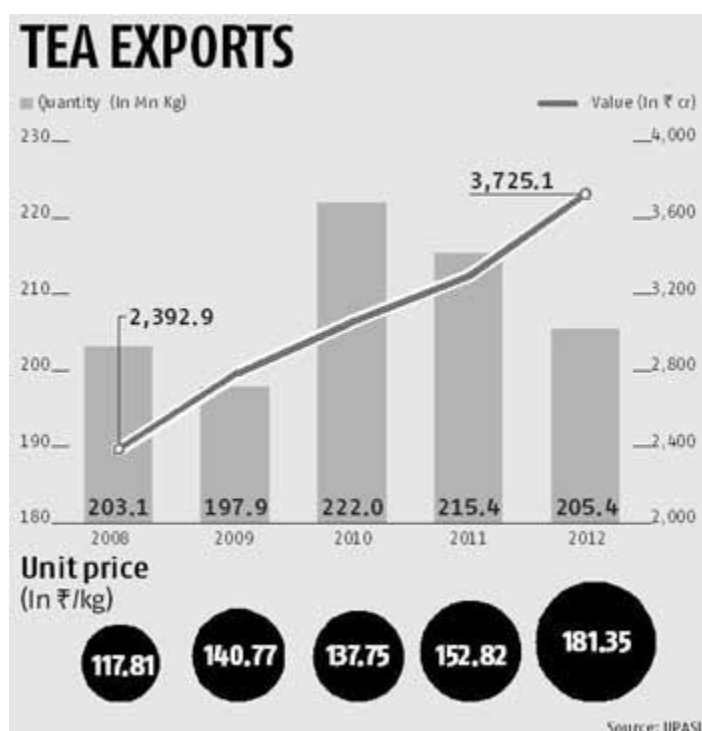
In a presentation at the 120th annual conference of United Planters’ Association of South India in Coonoor earlier this week, he said India couldn’t succeed in branding tea for specific markets within the country, as well as abroad. However, he expressed confidence the country could capture a higher share in the export markets by exporting branded tea in the coming years.

The Tea Board is targeting export of 230 million kg this financial year, a 4.5 per cent rise on previous year. In 2012-13, exports were 220.46 million kg. India’s output rose 3.6 per cent to 1.13 billion kg in 2012-13 from 1.09 billion kg the previous year.

“We cannot export all sorts of tea. We will encourage exporters to focus more on export of high-quality, high value-added teas. While continuing our efforts, we have identified five focus markets for exports---Kazakhstan, Iran, US, Egypt and Russia. We will take up many new

initiatives such as branding of Indian tea for these markets. We will extend all assistance to exporters to achieve the desired targets,” Bhanu said. “We have achieved tremendous success in these five focus markets. However, we have not succeeded in creating an Indian international brand.”

Bhanu said the board was stressing on increasing exports to Iran to 25 million kg this year from 17 million kg last year, growth of 45 per cent. It was also trying to increase exports of orthodox tea.



The Tea Board had entered into a dialogue with various stakeholders of the industry for the branding initiative, he added. The board would take the help of India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) to create a brand for foreign markets, he said. IBEF is a trust established by the department of commerce that aims to promote and create global awareness of the ‘made in India’ label in markets abroad and facilitate dissemination of knowledge of Indian products and services.

To recommend a strategy to increase consumption of tea in rural areas The board has constituted a committee headed by Hindustan Unilever. The panel includes other leading producers such as Tata Global Beverages and Ginnar.

“In rural India, people think drinking tea is not good for health. They prefer a glass of milk over tea. We need to change their perception and establish the fact that tea drinking is not bad for the health. We need to produce good quality tea and supply it to markets all over,” Bhanu said.

Syrian crisis spices up jeera exports from India

Record export seen this year with prices hovering at peak levels



Syrian crisis coupled with dismal crop conditions in other jeera(cuminseed) producing nations has created an advantageous situation for jeera (cumin seed) exports from India.

As per the Spice Board of India's data, this year jeera exports have touched nearly 80,000 tonnes so far, while more exports are likely to take place in days to come.

Experts maintained that global jeera supplies are less as the key producing nations such as Turkey and Iran are facing lower crop this year. More so, crises in Syria is curtailing supplies from the region.

As per the industry estimate, Turkey and Syria supply over 25,000 tonnes of jeera each, but so far this year, jeera supplies from these countries have been remarkably less. Supplies from Iran too are hit due to lower crop.

According to Spice Board data, India has exported 79,900 tonnes of jeera so far during 2012-13. Interestingly, trouble at Syria has helped India to exploit other markets for exports. Jeera exports to Vietnam, Spain, UAE, Iran and Turkey have increased dramatically as compared to exports in 2007-08. Exports to these countries jumped several times since 2007-08.

"Amid slowing global supplies, India has an advantage of higher production, good realisation and alert farmers. All these factors have added to increased production of jeera in the country. At a time of lesser supplies from global peers, we have an advantage to sell our produce," said

Shailesh Shah, director, Jabs International - one of the largest jeera exporters in India.

"Looking at the present scenario, we won't have a competition globally until next July," said Shah.

India's jeera crop for the year 2012-13 is expected to be close to 400,000 tonnes, which is about 10-15 per cent higher from the five year average but is lower than the previous year's record production of 461,160 tonnes.

"Prices have moved up recently and are believed to remain high for some more time as there is demand pressure from overseas buyers," said a jeera trader from Unjha, India's largest jeera trading hub.

Prices hover in the range of Rs 13,700-14,700 per quintal, while international prices hover in the range of \$ 2200 per tonne FOB (freight on board).

In the futures market on National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), immediate delivery contract quoted at Rs 14,200 per quintal on Tuesday.

However, analysts believe prices to remain range-bound at these levels and are less likely to surge further. "Over a period of last five years, annual growth rate in domestic consumption is seen as 5 per cent versus 8.5 per cent of production rate resulting into building up of good amount of stocks," a research note by Emkay Research showed.

Further, weather has remained favourable for the jeera crop next year.

"Farmers are smart, they have seen good realizations in jeera. Further, weather has been favourable so next year too jeera production will stay high," said a source at Unjha Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC).

What A Deal: Onion at Rs 9/kg

American site Groupon offers All-India deal with 21,000 kg spread



Nasdaq-listed American company and onion deal in India? Well, yes. Chicago-headquartered daily deal site, Groupon, went live live from this afternoon with an offer to sell onion at Rs 9 a kg all over India! This was a price last seen in 1999, claims the company.

Price of onion breached the Rs 100-mark recently in some markets in India , and is now pegged at anything between Rs 50 and 60 across the country.

For the next seven days starting today, Groupon India will keep a three-hour window open for onions at a hugely discounted rate, chief executive Ankur Warikoo told Business Standard. “It’s going to be first come first serve from 1 pm to 4 pm daily for seven days.”

Groupon, which does crazy deals once in a while, managed the Rs 9 a kg offer through negotiation with a leading onion distributor of Delhi. “There’s no gimmick here, we are getting the price for the volume we’ve offered.” The site is aiming to sell 21,000 kg of onion in seven days or 3,000 kg a day. “We’ll sell maximum of 3,000 kg or end the deal at 4 pm, whichever is earlier.”

Even as onion will be home delivered anywhere in the country, the catch is that no address will get more than 1 kg during the entire offer period.

Groupon is lining up another crazy deal this month. Without sharing too many details, Warikoo said, this will be about a customer paying a certain amount for a deal, without knowing what he’s paid for. A blind deal?

Global food price declines fourth month in a row

Record high output coupled with marginal decline in consumption to keep inventory up



Global food prices declined a drastic 5.1% in August on excess supply from the last year and estimates of yet another bumper output this year to reach the lowest level in 14 months.

Data compiled by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations showed that its Food Price Index recorded fourth decline in a row to average at 201.8 points in August 2013, a drop of 4 points (1.9%) from July.

The Cereal Price Index averaged 210.9 points in August, down 16.4 points (7.2%) from July and 49.4 points (or 19%) from August 2012.

The steep decline reflects expectations for a strong growth in world cereal production this year and, especially, a sharp recovery in maize supplies.

The Oils/Fats Price Index averaged 185.5 points in August, 5.7 points (or 3.0%) below the July value and the third consecutive monthly decline. The Dairy Price Index averaged 239.1 points in August, 2.8 points (1.2%) more than in July and 37% above its level in August last year.

Prices increased last month for all the dairy products that make up the index, except butter, as export supplies remain limited in major trading countries. The Meat Price Index averaged 175.0 points in August, an increase of 2.2 points (1.3%).

FAO forecasts the world cereal production is expected to rise to 2492 million tonnes in 2013. The forecast has been revised upwards by 14 million tonnes (or 0.5%) from the July forecast as

a result of higher maize crops officially reported in Argentina and improved prospects in the European Union (EU) and Ukraine.

At the latest forecast level, global cereal production would be 179 million tonnes (7.7%) higher than in 2012 and a new record.

The recovery is predicted to be driven by a 10.5% expansion in coarse grain output to 1 285 million tonnes as well as a 7.6% rise in wheat production to 710 million tonnes. World rice production is set to increase by 1.3%, reaching a new high of 497 million tonnes, in milled equivalent.

The sharp increase in global production of coarse grains in 2013 would be largely on account of a strong rebound in maize output (to 983 million tonnes), the bulk of which would originate from the United States, where maize production is forecast to reach 343 million tonnes this year, some 25% (69 million tonnes) higher than the 2012 drought-reduced level.

Against the sharp increase in production, cereal's utilization is set to decline this year. Global cereal utilization in 2013-14 is projected at 2413 million tonnes, down marginally from the previous forecast, but still 3.2% higher than in 2012-13.

Based on the latest forecasts, total use of cereals for direct human consumption is set to expand by 1.2% to 1 094 million tonnes. This would result in global per capita cereal consumption remaining steady at just over 152 kg, with wheat at 67 kg and rice at close to 57 kg.

Rising cereal stocks

The forecast of world cereal stocks at the close of seasons in 2014 has been raised slightly since July, to 569 million tonnes, primarily on expectations of higher maize inventories.

The revised forecast puts world cereal stocks 13% (65.5 million tonnes) above their low opening levels and at their highest since 2001-02. Based on the current projections of overall demand, the increase in stocks would drive up the global stock-to-use ratio to 23.3%, the highest since

2002-03.

"The overall supply-demand situation for cereal markets is much improved over this time last year when drought-hit production and low stock-to-use ratios, especially for maize, raised serious concerns," said David Hallam, Director of FAO's Trade and Markets Division.

"Production appears to have rebounded and higher stock-to-use ratios should bring greater stability to world markets."

Annual real food price indices (2002-04 = 100)						
Year	Food price index	Meat price index	Dairy price index	Cereals price index	Oil price index	Sugar price index
2000	92.9	98.5	98.1	87.6	69.7	119.3
2001	101.4	104.8	116.3	94	73.4	113.1
2002	97.8	97.5	89.5	102.8	94.7	106.4
2003	98	97	95.4	98.4	101.1	100.8
2004	103.7	104.9	113.1	99.1	103.5	93.8
2005	103.3	105.8	119.2	91.2	91.3	123.6
2006	108.2	101.2	109.3	103.9	96	179
2007	127.7	100.7	170.9	134.3	136.8	115.1
2008	147.6	113.2	162.2	175.6	167.8	134.2
2009	123.9	105	111.8	137.2	119.2	203.2
2010	139.4	114.6	150.8	137.4	146.1	227.3
2011	154	119.6	149.2	167.1	170.7	249.7
2012	141.6	117	126.1	161.3	150.6	204.3
2013	139.5	116.9	153.5	156.6	131.6	167.3

Source: Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), United Nations

Soybean up 1.7% on global cues

Marketmen said thin supply and pick up in domestic demand mainly supported the upsurge in futures trade



Soybean prices hardened by Rs 69.50 to Rs 3,561 per quintal in futures trading today on traders' buying on the back of firm overseas markets sentiment.

Marketmen said thin supply and pick up in domestic demand mainly supported the upsurge in futures trade.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, soybean prices for far January contract spurted by Rs 69.50, or 1.91% to Rs 3,561 per quintal, with an open interest of 3,090 lots.

Most active near November contract surged by Rs 63.50, or 1.79% to Rs 3,508 per quintal, having an open interest of 1,14,030 lots.

October month contracts also advanced by Rs 61, or 1.71% to Rs 3,497.50 per quintal, in an open interest of 90,650 lots.

Oilmeals exports jumps more than two fold in Aug: SEA

Country shipped 1,25,780 tonnes of oilmeals in the same month last year

Export of oilmeals -- mainly used as animal feed -- increased more than two fold to 3,07,733 tonnes in August from the year-ago period, on strong demand for soyabean meal from Iran and Europe besides weakening rupee, an industry body SEA said today.

The country had shipped 1,25,780 tonnes of oilmeals in the same month last year, it said in a statement.

According to Mumbai-based Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA), the shipments in August rose significantly due to increased demand for soyabean meal and rapeseed meal.

Of 3,07,733 tonnes shipments made in August 2013, soyabean meal comprised of 1,83,555 tonnes, rapeseed meal (90,735 tonnes), castorseed meal (30,943 tonnes) and ricebran extraction (2,500 tonnes).

Soyabean meal and rapeseed meal shipments exceeded previous months level due to increased buying from Iran and Europe and depreciation of rupee, it added. Rupee has fallen sharply in the last few weeks and is ruling at Rs 65.69 against the US dollar at 1330 hours today.

However, during April-August of this fiscal, the total oilmeals exports fell by 10% to 13.35 lakh tonnes from 14.82 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, the SEA said.

Export fell in this period because of slump in demand from Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand, while shipments to South Korea and Iran remained stronger, it noticed.

For instance, shipments to Japan fell by 84% to 13,077 tonnes in April-August of this fiscal from 85,181 tonnes in the same period last year.

Similarly, exports to Vietnam fell by 74% to 42,981 tonnes from 1,65,778 tonnes, while

shipments to Indonesia declined by 64% to 34,313 tonnes from 96,900 tonnes in the review period.

Whereas shipments to Iran and South Korea improved marginally to 4,72,361 tonnes and 4,16,043 tonnes, respectively, in the said period.

More than 80% of the shipments has been undertaken from Kandla port in Gujarat, SEA added.

Refined soya down 1.3% on sluggish demand

Oil for delivery in September traded lower by 0.8%



Refined soya oil prices fell by 1.37% to Rs 678.05 per kg in futures trading today as speculators reduced their holdings on the back of sluggish demand in the spot market against adequate supplies.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, refined soya oil for delivery in October slid by Rs 9.40, or 1.37% to Rs 678.05 per 10 kg in business turnover of 83,530 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in September traded lower by Rs 6.20, or 0.88% to Rs 695.75 per 10 kg in 54,010 lots.

Analysts said speculators reduced their holdings due to sluggish demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position, mainly influenced refined soya oil prices at futures trade.

Chilli down 2.8% on adequate supply

Chilli for delivery in October declined by 1.74%



Chilli prices plunged by 2.83% to Rs 5,288 per quintal in futures market today as speculators offloaded their positions, driven by subdued demand in the spot market against adequate supplies.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, chilli for delivery in September plunged by Rs 154, or 2.83% to Rs 5,288 per quintal with an open interest of 3,450 lots.

Similarly, chilli for delivery in October declined by Rs 98, or 1.74% to Rs 5,530 per quintal in 5,170 lots.

Market analysts said offloading of positions by speculators on subdued demand in the spot market against adequate supplies from producing regions mainly pulled down chilli prices at futures trade.

Chana rises by 0.8% as demand picks up

Speculators indulged in creating positions, driven by pick up in demand



Chana prices rose by Rs 25 to Rs 3,179 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators indulged in creating positions, driven by pick up in demand in the spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, chana for delivery in October rose by Rs 25, or 0.79% to Rs 3,179 per quintal with an open interest of 114020 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in September traded higher by Rs 15, or 0.48% to Rs 3,109 per quintal in 78,190 lots.

Traders said speculators indulged in creating positions, driven by pick up in demand in the spot market, mainly led to rise in chana prices at futures trade.

Crude palm oil down 1.6% on sluggish demand

Oil for delivery in the same month traded lower by 1.37%



Crude palm oil prices extended losses for the second straight day by losing 1.62% to Rs 546.10 per 10 kg in futures trade today largely in tune with sluggish demand in the spot market.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in September fell by Rs 9, or 1.62% to Rs 546.10 per 10 kg in business turnover of 425 lots.

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

In a similar fashion, the oil for delivery in October traded lower by Rs 8.40, or 1.53% to Rs 540.50 per 10 kg in 135 lots.

Market analysts said besides sluggish demand in the spot market, adequate stocks positions mainly kept pressure on crude palm oil prices at futures trade.

Potato up 0.7% on strong demand

Potato for delivery in far-month March also edged up by 0.36%



Supported by strong domestic demand, potato prices gained 0.76% to Rs 806.80 per quintal in futures trade today.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for delivery in September gained Rs 5.90, or 0.76% to Rs 806.80 per quintal in a business turnover of 29 lots.

The potato for delivery in far-month March also edged up by Rs 3, or 0.36% to Rs 832 per quintal in 13 lots.

Market analysts attributed the rise in potato futures to strong demand in the spot market against restricted arrivals from growing regions.

Cardamom surges by 4% on strong demand, tight supply

Fresh positions created by speculators following strong demand influenced prices



Cardamom prices surged by 3.97% to Rs 755.80 per kg in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions, driven by strong demand in the spot market.

Tight supplies in the physical market due to less arrivals from producing regions further fuelled the uptrend.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in September climbed by Rs 48.90, or 3.97% to Rs 755.80 per kg in business turnover of 186 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in October shot up by Rs 11.30, or 1.40% to Rs 819.70 per kg in 693 lots.

Market analysts said fresh positions created by speculators following strong demand in the spot market mainly attributed gains in cardamom prices at futures trade.

18-fold jump in soyameal exports to 1.83 LT in Aug

In the previous month of July, soyameal shipments were at 1.07 lakh tonnes



Soyameal exports jumped more than 18-fold to 1.83 lakh tonnes in August on strong demand and favourable global rates, an industry body said today.

Shipments of soyameal, used as animal feed, stood at 10,006 tonnes lakh tonnes in the same month last year due to high domestic prices of the feed that time, Soyabean Processors Association (SOPA) said in a statement.

In the previous month of July, soyameal shipments were at 1.07 lakh tonnes.

"Exports increased in August as domestic soyameal prices were almost in line with international market rates. The demand for soyameal has also increased," SOPA spokesperson said.

In the current oil marketing year (October-September) so far, soyameal exports decreased by 8.86% to 32.99 lakh tonnes compared with 36.20 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of previous oil year.

"In comparison with July, supply of soyameal has improved in August and there was hardly any disparity between the domestic and international prices," SOPA said.

The majority of the exports were to Iran as it imported in the rupee under barter trade system. Besides, European nation and Indonesia were also major importers of Indian soyameal in August.

Fabric prices rise on weaker rupee

Since April, prices of raw materials needed to spin yarn have risen 17-18%



Fabric prices are rising, following the sharp increase in raw material costs. And, the rise is already being passed on to consumers by small weavers, as well as large companies. The cost of synthetic fibre has been rising on a sharp fall in the rupee, and this has increased costs of petrochemicals such as purified terephthalic acid and mono ethylene glycol, raw materials used to make fibres. Simultaneously, cotton prices have also increased.

While the increase in raw material costs has been a big hurdle for fabric makers, “An improvement in the situation, led by the export demand, has given some comfort to textile players to pass on the increasing costs of raw material. The textile sector, as a whole, is coming back to the growth path,” said D K Nair, director general, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

Since April, prices of basic raw materials needed to spin yarns have risen 17-18 per cent, while man-made and cotton yarn prices have risen only 13-15 per cent. However, fabric prices, for synthetic as well as cotton fabric, rose only four-six per cent. Now, yarn-weaving companies are optimistic about passing on costs by increasing prices, as the overall scene seems to be improving, led by an export boom.

Rupee fluctuations will be deciding factor for raw material prices in coming months. Chua Sok Peng, Managing Editor, Asia Petrochemicals, Platts, said, “India is very sensitive to fluctuations in the rupees these days. Any fall in the currency will stem imports especially if the product is meant for local consumption rather than re-exports.” Standalone platts believe that, “the paraxylene, is expected to be oversupplied. We currently see PTA prices range-bound, and the

MEG price is closely tied to China inventory level and the availability of tank space.” A senior executive of a large integrated textile company involved in cotton and synthetic fabric business, said, “Now, with every order, new prices for fabric are quoted, as the demand scene is looking good.”

In Surat, a hub for small and big processors, including yarns, weavers and fabric makers, while larger players have been able to pass on the rising costs, the process has been slow. However, “demand for textile is looking up in view of coming festivals and a good monsoon, along with rising export orders that could help raise fabric prices,” said Dhirubhai Shah of Surat-based Fairdeal Filament. He, however, said due to the inability of weavers to pass on entire costs, investments in weaving were on a standstill in the last two years.

Nair said with the revised Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme coming into force soon, investments in the weaving sector would also start coming in. Interest rate subvention and improved prospects for the textile sector would also aid the industry. “If synthetic yarn prices remain high, at some point, incremental demand could start shifting to cotton yarns. If cotton and man-made fibre both remain costly, users have few choices.”

Currently, two-thirds of the Indian textile industry’s consumption is accounted by cotton.

INPUTS SPIN A COSTLY YARN						
RAW MATERIAL						
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	% chg
Domestic PTA (₹/kg)	62	57	64	68	71	14
Domestic MEG (₹/kg)	58	57	58	65	69	18
Raw material cost (₹/kg)	74	69	76	81	86	17
Domestic PSF Ex-Factory (₹/kg)	95	95	99	104	110	16
Indian Shankar-6 Cotton (Spot) (₹/andy)	38,558	37,970	40,292	42,556	45,822	19
YARNS						
Cotton carded yarn (30s) (₹/Kg)	182	178	188	196	210	15
Domestic PFY (80 D) (₹/Kg)	119	121	125	128	135	13
Domestic POY (126 D) (₹/Kg)	108	110	111	116	121	12
FABRICS						
Shirting (₹/m)	20.5	20.8	21.3	21.8	22.4	9
Blended fabric (₹/m)	114	114	114	116	119	4
Chiffon (₹/m)	30.3	30.1	30.5	31.3	31.5	4
Raymond cotton (₹/m) (80/108 IM & 40 PM)	22.5	22.5	22.9	23.1	23.4	4

Source: Industry

THE HINDU Business Line

Global tea trade seen buoyant

Coonoor, Sept. 5:

Global traders are forecasting a buoyant market for tea in the last four months of current calendar.

The supply will be larger than last year due to favourable weather in most producing countries, but the demand is projected to rise proportionately to absorb quality teas at high prices.

African producers' organisations foresee a higher production due to useful rainfall over the last few weeks.

Plucking is on high level and factories are reporting larger arrival of green leaf for processing.

Due to bright weather with occasional showers, growing conditions are conducive in Sri Lanka and crop intake has increased. Dry conditions are setting in Indonesia but it would not hit production tellingly. China and Vietnam may report a lower output due to dragging weather but that is unlikely to offset Kenya's massive gain of 69.4 mkg.

North India has offset South India's crop loss to post 11.8 mkg gain so far.

"According to our compilation, global black tea production so far this calendar has increased by 9.36 per cent over 2012," Rajesh Gupta, publisher of annual Global Tea Digest, told *Business Line*. However, demand is high enough to absorb the increased supply.

In Mombasa auction, 92 per cent of Kenyan teas are sold with the UK, Kazakhstan, Russia, Yemen and West Asia exerting mentionable demand.

As much as 97 per cent of the Sri Lankan teas are sold at Colombo auctions with demand from almost every established importer.

As much as 99 per cent of Indonesia teas are sold at Jakarta auctions. In India 80-90 per cent of the offer is sold in various auction centres.

"Collectively, we see an improvement in market in the following weeks. Exporters' overall earnings will be more due to higher rupee equivalent for dollar and euro," an exporter said.

Cotton: Limited stocks, unlimited demand



Cotton season in the Bhoadapady Regulated Market Committee (RMC) has been completed due to poor production.

The cotton auction sale was started in Bhoadapady RMC on June 27 and the farmers from Edapady, Konganapuram, Kolathur, Bhoadapady and the surrounding areas have brought the cotton for sale.

Due to poor production, the sale was completed by the first week of September. The RMC officials said that the demand is very high but due to poor production, only limited stocks arrived and were sold. Still demand for the cotton is very high. This year, the Bhoadapady RMC received 11,419 quintals (30,721 bags) cotton worth Rs 6.21 crore and were sold.

On Wednesday night, the last sale was conducted in the Bhoadapady RMC. All the 357 quintals (1,051 bags) were sold. The Bt Cotton fetched Rs 6,090-6,290 and the Surabi at Rs 5,890-6,250. The prices of both the varieties were increased by Rs 200.

Jeera prices remain unchanged

Jeera prices remained unchanged in both spot and futures markets.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, jeera September traded flat at Rs 13,715 a quintal, with an open interest of 4,476 lots. October price marginally decreased by Rs 7.50 at Rs 13,892.50, with an open interest of 9,483 lots.

At the Unjha mandi of Gujarat, arrivals were 6,000-7,000 bags and best quality was at Rs 2,600-2,700 for 20 kg. Medium was at Rs 2,400-2,500.

The trading activities are likely to improve in the coming days with export and domestic demand picking up.

Analysts said expectation of good supply capped the the prices.

Spot rubber rules steady

Kottayam, Sept. 5:

Spot rubber finished unchanged on Thursday. The market remained neutral as there were no genuine buyers or sellers in the local trading houses though the declines in the domestic futures kept the sentiments under pressure during closing hours.

According to sources, most counters managed to sustain at the prevailing levels on acute short supplies.

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

The trend was partially mixed as latex continued to shed the excess gains on buyer resistance.

September futures in RSS 4 weakened to Rs 186.10 (Rs 188.09), October to Rs 185.99 (Rs 187.29), November to Rs 186.90 (Rs 188.19) and December to Rs 189 (Rs 190.79) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) declined to Rs 178.78 (Rs 180.97) at Bangkok. September futures closed at ¥272.3 (Rs 180.37) on the 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 (169) and Latex 60%: 138 (139).

Oilmeal exports double in Aug on weak rupee, better demand

US buys oilmeal extract for first time



Mumbai, Sept. 5:

Oilmeal exports more than doubled to 3,07,733 tonnes in August against 1,25,780 tonnes registered in the same period last year.

This was largely due to fall in prices on the back of sharp rupee depreciation and better demand from the European countries.

Rupee depreciated five per cent to 62.81 versus dollar in August against 59.76 registered in July.

Soyabean and rapeseed meal prices were down nine per cent each at \$520 and \$232 a tonne against \$571 and \$254 a tonne in July, according to data released by the Solvent Extractors' Association. Shipments to South Korea doubled to 90,275 tonnes against 41,426 tonnes in the same period last year, while that to Iran was higher at 1,08,617 tonnes (4,218 tonnes).

The European countries and the US bought oilmeal extract for the first time in the last one year. They purchased 45,101 tonnes and 202 tonnes of soyabean meal. France was another surprise buyer of 23,925 tonnes of soyabean extract.

DOWN SO FAR THIS FISCAL

In the first five months of this fiscal, exports were down 10 per cent at 13,35,695 tonnes (14,82,517 tonnes).

This was due to lower imports by Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia.

India's exports to South-East Asian markets declined by two-third as it was outpriced by competing countries.

Thailand imports from India dipped four per cent to 97,728 tonnes (1,02,266 tonnes).

Vietnam's was down 74 per cent at 42,981 tonnes (1,65,778 tonnes) while Indonesia's imports more than halved to 34,313 tonnes (96,900 tonnes).

However, exports to South Korea, Iran and European countries helped to arrest sharp slide in exports.

Between April-August, South Korea imported 4,16,043 tonnes of oilmeal against 3,95,569 tonnes last year.

It consisted of 1,85,958 tonnes of rapeseed meal and 2,30,085 tonnes of castor meal. Iran shipped 4,72,361 tonnes (4,56,133 tonnes) while Europe and others countries imported 1,79,382 tonnes (31,223 tonnes).

Poppy seed prices move up as Court extends ban on imports



Kochi, Sept 5:

The Allahabad High Court , after hearing the case on poppy seeds import, has posted the case for October 9.

Trade sources alleged that till then, there would be “no imports as no new permits would be issued during this period.

“This means huge shortages for four months, after which there will be numerous holidays. The entire poppy seeds import trade will be derailed and that in turn will lead to big jump in prices”, they claimed.

They said that on Wednesday, markets jumped Rs 20 a kg and in the coming weeks, it is likely to touch Rs 500”.

As the festival demand has started, prices of poppy seeds have shown an upsurge and currently they are in the range of Rs 400-450.

Meanwhile, reports from Madhya Pradesh said the Neemuch farmers have urged the Government to ban import of Turkey poppy seeds.

Continuance of the stay, the trade claimed, might push up its prices in the domestic market in the coming days.

After considering the submissions advanced on behalf of the new respondents and other counsels representing other parties, “we are of the view that the interim order dated May 16, 2013 which has been extended from time to time needs partial modification”, the Bench said.

“This is being done in the interest of justice for such importers whose consignments of white poppy seeds from country ‘X’ were loaded for import to India on completion of all legal formalities, on or before May 16, 2013 when this Court passed the interim order directing the respondents not to allow any import of white poppy seeds from Country ‘X’ till the next date of listing, notwithstanding any licence or registration of any import sale contract.

“Only the aforesaid consignments of importers who are before us personally or through association whose documents with respect to registration and import agreements have been brought on record of this case shall be allowed to be imported into India by the Customs Department after it has satisfied itself that the consignments conform to all the requirements governing import of white poppy seeds and the condition imposed above in this order.

“With the aforesaid partial modification, the interim order passed earlier on May 16 shall continue till the next date of listing,” the Bench said.

Sugar rules flat on matching supply-demand



Mumbai, Sept. 5:

Sugar prices in physical market ruled unchanged on Thursday on routine demand and supply.

On futures market, it extended further loss on higher selling and lack of any positive cues.

Naka and mill tender rates were steady despite some improvement in freight rates in Kolhapur – Karad line which increased by Rs 2-5 a bag.

The morale was calm and steady with routine volume, said sources.

Vashi market continuously carries more than 120 truckloads of stocks and new crushing season is only a month away.

Sentiment among stockists is to buy need-based.

Demand from neighbouring States and for export is also lacking since long due to price disparity forcing Maharashtra's mills to offload commodity in local market .

Arrivals in the Vashi market were 61-62 truck loads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 60-61 truck loads.

On Wednesday, 11-12 mills offered tenders and sold about 58,000-60,000 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 3,026-3,140 (Rs 3,026-3,135) 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.

Traders prefer cheaper Andhra Pradesh turmeric



Erode, Sept. 5:

Turmeric prices remained stable due to poor demand and also arrival of cheaper turmeric from Andhra Pradesh.

“Still we have not yet received any bulk orders from North India Traders are buying limited stock of turmeric. Stockists, with an expectation of rise in prices, procured 700 bags of turmeric on Thursday against the arrival of 3,000 bags while local traders purchased only 950 bags,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Turmeric farmers said that still many traders are buying turmeric from Andhra Pradesh and dispatching to North India after polishing them. They admitted the same and said that they are getting reasonable profit for buying AP stock as the price of the turmeric is cheaper than Erode.

On Thursday, due to arrival of quality hybrid finger variety turmeric, the price gained Rs 150 a quintal. The finger variety was up by Rs 50. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,611-5,809; the root variety Rs 3,462-5,274 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 4,950-6,519; the root variety Rs 4,799-5,817. Of the 652 bags arrived, 346 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety quoted Rs 5,066-5,961; the root variety Rs 4,784-5,511. Of the 365 bags put up for sale, 356 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,011-5,941; the root variety Rs 4,617-5,450. Of the arrival of 771 bags, 763 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,700-5,869 and the root variety Rs 4,689-5,269. All the 149 bags were traded.

Imported edible oils slip on rising rupee



Mumbai, Sept. 5:

Edible oils witnessed a mixed trend on Thursday with cautious trade tracking volatile Malaysian palm oil futures market which opened weak but later closed higher on expectation of higher demand from India, China and other Asian countries.

Groundnut oil and cotton refined oil rose by Rs 10 and Rs 5 for 10 kg respectively while sunflower and soyabean refined oil ruled unchanged.

Palmolein declined Rs 5 and rapeseed oil dropped by Rs 3.

Sources said, "Strengthening of rupee resulting in lower import cost, led local refineries to reduce their rates for palm-soya oil by Rs 10-15. The volume remained need-based as stockists have covered sufficient in last few days. During the day, Liberty sold about 350-400 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 605, Gokul sold 150-200 tonnes at Rs 598 and resellers offloaded 80-100 tonnes at Rs 597."

Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 605, super palmolein Rs 642 and super deluxe Rs 662, soyabean refined oil Rs 680 and sunflower refined oil Rs 835.

Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 615 ex Patalganga and Rs 600 ex JNPT, soyabean refined oil Rs 675 and sunflower refined oil Rs 830.

Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 614, super palmolein Rs 640, soyabean refined oil Rs 674 and sunflower refined oil Rs 830. Gokul's rates were Rs 598 for palmolein.

At Rajkot, groundnut oil was steady on third consecutive day at Rs 1,325 for *tellia* tin and loose (10 kg) Rs 850 .

Soyabean arrivals were 20,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,350-3,450 ex mandi and Rs 3,500-3,600 for plant delivery.

Mustard seed arrivals were 70,000 bags and prices were Rs 3,200-3,725.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's October contracts settled higher at MYR 2,415 (MYR 2,402), November at MYR 2,412 (MYR 2,398) and December at MYR 2,411 (MYR 2,399).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 870 (860), soya refined oil 675(675), sunflower exp. ref. 750 (750), sunflower ref. 830(830), rapeseed ref. oil 740(743), rapeseed expeller ref. 710(713) cottonseed ref. oil 675(670) and palmolein 600(605).

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

Overseas buying buoys pepper



Kochi, Sept. 5:

Pepper market – futures and the spot – shot up on overseas demand amid limited supply .

Daily, nearly 30-40 tonnes of farm grade pepper mostly from the plains were traded. Selling pressure was seen in the plains as the growers were liquidating to meet the Onam festival expenses, they said. North Malabar has also become a seller.

Upcountry requirements are met by supply from Karnataka which was offering farm grade pepper at Rs 400 a kg delivered anywhere in India. Those dealers who bought earlier anticipating a price rise were liquidating now in Karnataka, 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.

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

On the NMCE, Sep contract increased by Rs 603 and Rs 440 to Rs 44,680 while the Oct contract decreased by Rs 338 to Rs 44,901 a quintal.

Total open interest fell by seven tonnes to 48 tonnes.

Total turn over dropped by six tonnes to 33 tonnes.

Spot prices shot up by Rs 300 a kg on strong demand to close at Rs 41,000 (ungarbled) and Rs 43,000 (garbled) .

Indian parity in the international market was at \$6,850 (c&f) Europe and \$7,100 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

Weak offtake drags mustard



Indore, Sept. 5:

After ruling high during last week on strong global cues and declining rupee, mustard oil is witnessing sluggish trend in Indore and elsewhere in Madhya Pradesh and neighbouring mandis of Rajasthan and Gujarat on weak demand and buying support.

In Indore mandis mustard oil on Thursday ruled at Rs 656 (down Rs 9 from last week). Similarly, it is ruling Rs 12 lower in Moorena at Rs 658, while in Neemuch, mustard oil on Thursday was ruling at Rs 650 (down Rs 10 from last week).

In Rajasthan, mustard oil in Shree Ganga Nagar and Kota ruled at Rs 665 each (down Rs 10). In Jaipur also, mustard oil is ruling Rs 10 lower to Rs 680.

In Gujarat also, mustard oil ruled sluggish at Rs 655. Though local mandis remained closed today on account of 'Amavasya', in private trading mustard seeds ruled sluggish at Rs 4,000-4,100 a quintal (down Rs 200 from last week).

Similarly raida also traded low at Rs 3,050. Last week, a steep rise in dollar had perked up mustard seeds prices in Indore mandis to Rs 4,100-4,300, while raida had risen to Rs 3,100-3,200.

In futures, mustard seeds traded higher on rise in buying support at lower rate with its September and October contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,583 (up Rs 25) and Rs 3,632 (up Rs 26).

Plant deliveries of mustard seeds for Jaipur line were quoted at Rs 3,680-3,700.

Arrival of mustard seeds across the country on Thursday was recorded at 80,000 bags with Rajasthan leading the arrivals with 50,000 bags, followed by Punjab/Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh with 7,000 bags each, Gujarat – 4,000 bags each, while 5,000 bags were offloaded elsewhere in the country.

Rice to rule at current levels



Karnal, Sept. 5:

Rice market may continue to rule around current levels with marginal fluctuations in coming days, said market experts.

With the trading being lukewarm, prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice have been ruling almost unchanged since last week.

Amit Chandna, Proprietor, Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told *Business Line* that the market has not seen any major alteration in prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice since last week.

Only need-based buying is taking place in the market and it's unlikely to see any changes in the prices in the next couple of days too. In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) sold at Rs 8,000-8,100, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs 7,650-7,750 a quintal.

Pure basmati (raw) quoted at Rs 8,650. Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs 6,600.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Dubar quoted at Rs 3,600, Tibar sold at Rs 4,200 while Mongra was at Rs 2,900.

In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) sold at Rs 4,500-4,600 while Sharbati (Sela) quoted at Rs 4,300.

Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,300-30, Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,300, PR-11 (sela) sold at Rs 2,900 while PR-11 (Raw) quoted at Rs 2,740. PR14 (steam) sold at Rs 3,000-80.

Paddy arrivals

Around 5,500 bags of different paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal Grain Market Terminal.

About 5,000 bags PR paddy arrived and quoted at Rs 1,300 while around 500 bags of Pusa-1509 arrived and sold at Rs 2,850 a quintal.