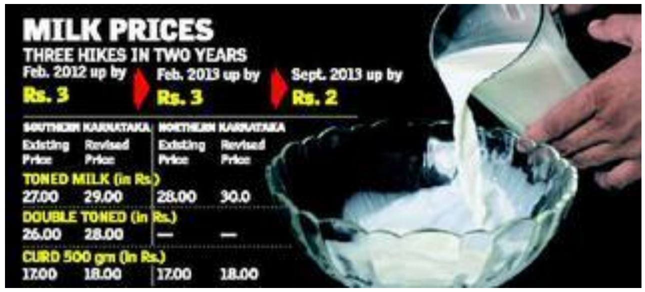
Date : 11.09.2013

THE HINDU

Milk gets dearer by Rs. 2 a litre



Those who buy Nandini milk will have to dig deeper into their pockets from Wednesday morning as a litre of milk will be dearer by Rs. 2. The Karnataka Milk Federation announced the hike on Tuesday. The cost of a litre of the popular toned milk will now be Rs. 29 (in southern Karnataka, including Bangalore). A litre of milk in North Karnataka will be Rs. 30. However, in Gulbarga a litre will cost Rs. 32 as only the homogenised milk is sold there.

This is the third hike since February 2012. Tuesday's hike was in the offing after the State government allowed the federation to hike the milk price to fund its infrastructure projects and also meet the increasing cost of transport, raw materials and increased quantity of milk being procured.

The federation, through this hike, is set to gain about Rs. 440 crore from sale of milk alone.

Curd price

Following the hike, a litre of curd will now be Rs. 36 and the costliest milk from the KMF's stable would be full cream Samrudhi milk at Rs. 38 a litre. Even the price of other products such as ghee, sweets and other milk-based products will be revised subsequently, KMF sources confirmed.

"The unions have to create a corpus fund to meet the funds for infrastructure. In several old dairies, machineries have to be replaced. This additional revenue will be used to fund these infrastructure only," KMF Director (Marketing) Raviprakash Kakade, said.

The federation procures about 55 kg of milk daily and sells about 30 lakh litres as milk while about 3 lakh litres is converted into curd and 3 lakh lakh litres sold as Ultra heat treated (UHT) milk. About 1 lakh litres is used for preparing sweets and other milk products. The remaining quantity is converted to skimmed milk powder, Mr. Kakade said, adding that the hike would only cover about 50 per cent of the milk procured.

While the federation plans to set up three powder conversion plants with a capacity to handle 10 lakh kg of milk at a cost of Rs. 200 crore, a flexi pack unit to pack milk for schoolchildren is estimated to cost Rs. 160 crore.

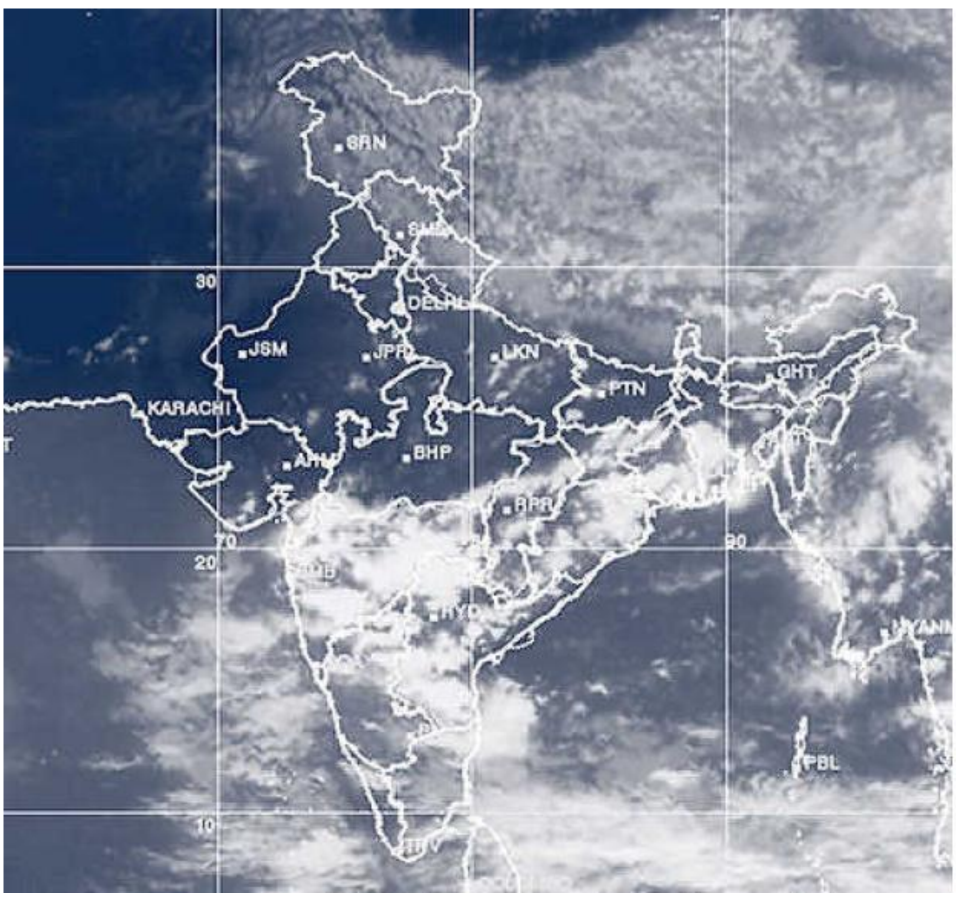
'No interference'

Bangalore Special Correspondent reports:

Minister for Law, Animal Husbandry and Parliamentary Affairs T.B. Jayachandra on Tuesday said the State government will not interfere in the Karnataka Milk Federation's decision to hike the price of milk and curd from September 11.

Asked about misuse of funds by the KMF, he said a report has been sought and officials who have indulged in irregularities will be punished.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on Sept. 10.

ANDHRA PRADESH				
Anantapur	28	22	tr	350
Arogyavaram	28	21	0	274
Bapatla	33	25	11	570
Calingapatnam	32	26	2	361
Gannavaram	32	25	2	626
Hanamkonda	33	23	5	855
Hyderabad AP	29	23	9	584
Kakinada	34	26	0	405
Khammam	34	25	0	—
Kavali	32	24	66	374
Kurnool	31	25	tr	469
Mahabubnagar	27	23	15	732
Machilipatnam	31	24	6	456
Nandyal	30	25	0	—
Narasapur	32	26	2	573
Nellore	34	26	0	435
Nizamabad	32	23	1	1040
Ongole	33	24	11	375
Ramagundam	33	24	tr	978
Tirupathi AP	33	25	tr	390
Tuni	32	25	40	403
Vizag AP	33	27	4	322
Vizag	32	26	2	351
KARNATAKA				
Agumbe	25	17	8	7327
Bengaluru AP	26	19	43	543
Bengaluru	25	20	43	641
Bagalkote	—	—	—	—
Belgaum AP	28	20	2	576
Bellary	29	22	10	—
Bijapur	29	21	20	431
Chitradurga	28	19	24	311
Chickmagalur	26	18	0	519
Chintamani	25	20	0	303
Gadag	27	21	12	275
Gulbarga	29	23	3	455
Hassan	27	20	0	671
Honavar	31	23	41	3280
Karwar	31	24	3	2607
Madikeri	21	16	1	3676
Mangalore AP	30	23	1	3195
Mysore	29	21	0	223
Mandya	27	21	1	243

Panambur	31	24	3	2947
Raichur	29	22	1	323
Shirali	30	23	22	3669
KERALA				
Alappuzha	30	25	0	2062
Kannur	31	23	21	3279
Kochi AP	30	24	1	2356
Kottayam	31	24	2	2138
Kozhikode	32	23	1	2363
Punalur	29	22	1	1508
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	29	23	tr	986
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	31	23	1	974
Vellanikkara	30	23	tr	2381
TAMIL NADU				
Adiramapattinam	31	23	20	156
Chennai	33	25	tr	435
Chennai AP	33	25	2	517
Coimbatore AP	30	22	tr	55
Coonoor	21	15	0	235
Cuddalore	33	25	1	503
Dharmapuri	30	21	0	243
Kanyakumari	29	24	0	232
Karaikal	33	25	1	334
Kodaikanal	16	11	0	503
Madurai AP	34	25	tr	239
Nagapattinam	33	25	2	352
Palayamkottai	33	27	0	78
Pamban	32	27	tr	8
Parangipettai	33	25	5	370
Puducherry	34	25	23	666
Salem	31	23	0	530
Thanjavur	33	26	10	241
Tiruchi AP	33	24	1	159
Tiruchi	—	—	—	—
Tirupattur	29	19	1	263
Tiruttani	33	25	0	—
Tondi	32	26	tr	152
Tuticorin	34	27	0	8
Ooty	15	11	tr	432
Valparai	24	17	8	3639
Vedaranyam	—	—	—	—
Vellore	31	25	tr	493
LAKSHADWEEP				
Amini Divi	30	25	1	879

Minicoy	30	25	3	1076
Kavarathi	—	—	—	—
OTHER STATIONS				
Kolkata (Alipore)	31	26	51	1596
Mumbai	29	26	1	2074
New Delhi	35	25	2	787

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

RAIN IN COASTAL ANDHRA PRADESH

CHENNAI: Southwest monsoon has been active over north interior Karnataka.Rainfall occurred at most places over north interior Karnataka, at many places over coastal Andhra Pradesh and coastal Karnataka and at a few places over Telangana, Kerala, Lakshadweep, south interior Karnataka and north Tamil Nadu. Isolated rainfall occurred over Rayalaseema and south Tamil Nadu.

FORECAST (Valid until Thursday Morning): Rain or thundershowers would occur at many places over north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Lakshadweep. Isolated rain or thundershower may occur over south Tamil Nadu.

Heavy Rainfall Warning: Isolated heavy rain would occur over north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Rayalaseema and Telagnana during the next 48 hours.

Farmers Weather Bulletin For Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (Forecast valid until Thursday Morning): Moderate to rather heavy rain would occur at many places over Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Vellore.

Farmers seek better procurement price for milk

The Tamil Nadu Milk Producers Association would stage a state wide demonstration on September 24, urging the State Government and the government run Co-operative Milk Producers Society (Aavin) to fulfil their various demands – which includes increasing the procurement price of milk.

“We want the procurement price of a litre of cow’s milk by Rs. 5 per litre and fix it at Rs. 25 and increase the procurement price of a litre of buffalo milk by Rs. 7 and fix it at Rs. 35 – to match the increasing price hike of fodder and feed for the animals”, K. Mohammed Ali, State President of the association said.

He made this statement after a consultative meeting with the office bearers here on Monday. He said that the Tamil Nadu Government increased the procurement price of cow's milk by Rs. 2 per litre, while the price of the same quantity of buffalo milk was increased by Rs. 6 – in the year 2011.

"But the procurement price of milk has not been revised over the last two years. On the other hand expenses incurred by farmers in the form of fodder and feed price hike has been in the range of 50 percent or more in the two years – compared to its price in the year 2011", he added.

Mr. Mohammed Ali pointed out that a 60 kg bag of Aavin feed that was priced at Rs. 650 in November, 2011, has now increased to Rs. 998. Noting that the price of feed that is marketed by private players has increased much more, he felt that it has forced small farmers to sell their cows at a very less price.

The association also asked the government to improve the quality of Aavin feed and to offer it at a subsidy of 50 percent to the nearly 15 lakh farmers across the State who are supplying more than one crore litres of milk to Aavin everyday.

Cooperative marketing to help areca nut farmers in Salem

Areca nut brought to the Salem Agricultural Producers' Co-operative Marketing Society at Vazhapadi, in Salem by farmers with a hope of fetching a better price for their produce. Photo: E. Lakshmi Narayanan

Facilities to be offered to farmers in Vazhapadi

In a bid to help farmers directly sell areca nut to traders so as to get a better price for their agricultural produce, the Salem Agricultural Producers' Co-operative Marketing Society Limited has opened its premises at Vazhapadi to sell areca nut under the tender system from Tuesday.

Areca nut farmers of Vazhapadi in the district claimed that they were not able to reap big returns for their cash crop's produce despite the price of the nut climbing as high as Rs. 450 a kilogram this year. A visit to these areas of cultivation showed that areca nut growers were highly unorganised, with no association in place for the farmers. The farmers and traders said that there could be close to 1,000 small scale farmers who are cultivating this crop in Kotavadi, Singapuram, Manakaatur, Ethapur and in the nearby villages.

C. Balasubramaniam (40), a farmer cum trader, who grows areca trees on two acres, said that most of the farmers were growing trees on a small scale basis, mostly in 25 cents to two acres of land. "Area under cultivation is taken on lease by farmers in the upper strata of society (and or traders), who fix the price of harvest from each tree, annually, and harvest the nut", he said.

He said that, this year, the harvest has also come down drastically due to the drought, which has badly affected the cultivation.

Another farmer R. Mani (57), of Padayachur near Vazhapadi, said that about 20 per cent of Areca nut trees had dried up due to water scarcity. "Like me, many farmers lost the entire area under cultivation", he lamented and added that he has started the cultivation afresh this year.

Farmers and traders said that the quantity of nut harvested from trees that survived the drought has dropped by 50 per cent.

The average quantity of Areca nut harvested from a tree annually is about a kilogram which has gone down by 50 per cent this year, they pointed out.

They recalled that last year a kilogram of the nut was sold for Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 per kilogram — based on the quality — in markets in Salem. This year, it has gone up to Rs. 300 to Rs. 450 per kilogram due to drop in production. The farmers said that this was insufficient to make up for the loss incurred by the drop in production of this cash crop.

On the other hand, the agricultural cooperative marketing staff, who recently tried to study Areca nut cultivation practices in this region, felt that farmers mostly depend on middlemen to sell their produce — in markets in Salem. "Middlemen sell it at a little better price to traders who come from as far as Shimoga, Kanpur and Delhi to make paan based products", they said.

However, the farmers and traders are hoping for a change in the situation with the cooperative marketing society opening its doors to them.

"We will know how successful it is in a couple of weeks", farmers and traders said.

Water level

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Tuesday stood at 99.40 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 1,015.74 cusecs and 1,004.75 cusecs of water was discharged. The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 60.99 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 11 cusecs and 10 cusecs of water was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 22 feet, 58.45 feet in Perunchani, 9.25 feet in Chittar I, 9.38 feet in Chittar II and 30.85 feet in Mambazhathuraiyaru dam.

Pepper cultivation to be promoted on commercial basis in Tirupur

Pepper cultivation is to be promoted on a commercial basis for the first time in Tirupur district under a project to be taken up by the Department of Horticulture for bringing 365ha of additional 'garden area' under select horticulture crops.

To assist the farmers take up pepper, planting materials along with bio-fertilizers such as azospyrillium and phosphor bacteria, water soluble fertilizers to be sprayed through the drip irrigation system, pesticides and fungicides are to be supplied free of cost for a pilot area of 20ha using the funds allocated under National Horticulture Mission.

"Similar to pepper, the subsidy assistances will also be extended for farmers to raise cocoa, nutmeg, acid lime, mango and papaya under the targeted additional 365ha of 'garden area'," Deputy Director of Horticulture M. Tamilselvan told *The Hindu* .

The requisite quantity of planting materials of various crops, meant for distribution, will be procured by the horticulture officials from the State Farms situated in Dindigul, Salem and The Nilgiris districts.

For helping farm mechanisation and adoption of regionally differentiated strategies to enhance the profit margins, the department has earmarked Rs. 9.4 lakh towards the supply of power tillers and plant protection gadgets and another corpus of Rs. 3 lakh for training the agrarian community on latest technologies.

"To those who wished to opt for organic farming practices, subsidy will be extended for setting up a total of 30 vermincompost units across the district.

"This include both the permanent structures as well as the movable ones," Mr. Tamilselvan said.

New tomato variety that yields 19 kg a plant

Arka Rakshak is an high-yielding and disease-resistant variety developed by IIHR in Bangalore.

Can you guess how much a single tomato plant will yield? Well, the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research's (IIHR) Arka Rakshak variety of tomato has yielded 19 kg per plant. This is the yield level recorded by IIHR scientists at a farmer's field under precision farming.

With this kind of yield, the new variety of Arka Rakshak (Arka stands for the river Arkavathi on whose banks the IIHR is located) has created waves in the sector.

"Clearly, this is the highest tomato yield the State has ever witnessed, and also this variety has turned out to be the State's highest tomato-yielding variety as per scientific data," says IIHR's Principal Scientist and Head of the Division of Vegetable Crops A.T. Sadashiva.

According to him, the highest yield per plant by other hybrids is only 15 kg. Pointing out that Karnataka's average tomato productivity was only 35 tonnes a hectare, Dr. Sadashiva notes that Arka Rakshak's yield had touched a high of 190 tonnes in a farmer's field.

Chandrappa, a farmer from Devasthanadahosalli of Chikkaballapur district, who has grown these varieties of tomatoes, has been able to get an yield of 38 tonnes from 2,000 plants on half an acre of land as against the level of 20 tonnes which he used to get from other hybrid varieties.

"I earned Rs. 2.75 lakh by selling the produce at a rate of Rs. 5 to Rs. 11 a kg from November 2012 to January 2013 after deducting expenses of about Rs. 80,000," he says.

According to Dr. Sadashiva, these are not only high-yielding varieties but are also resistant to three diseases of tomato leaf curl virus, bacterial wilt and early blight. This helps in reducing the cost of cultivation by at least 10 per cent by way of savings on fungicides and pesticides, he notes.

Besides, these deep read fruits have other advantages as the firmness of fruits makes them suitable for long-distance transportation. Similarly, they have a shelf life of 15 days as against the 10 days of other hybrids and six days of the common varieties.

Arka Rakshak is now the State's highest tomato yielding variety

A farmer reaped 190 tonnes per hectare as against the State's average of 35 tonnes

It cuts cultivation cost by at least 10 per cent as the plants are resistant to three diseases

The fruits have a longer shelf life of 15 days and are suitable for long distance transportation

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Heavy rain forecast

Rains continue to lash the State and its capital and moderate to heavy rains are likely to occur at many places in coastal Andhra, Telangana and Rayalaseema regions on Wednesday under the impact of low pressure area lying over the west central Bay of Bengal. Met authorities said heavy rainfall would occur in East and West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Nellore and Prakasam districts in the coastal region and in all the districts of Telangana and Rayalaseema during the next 48 hours.

Authorities said there could be a few spells of rain or thundershowers and at times heavy rains in some areas in the capital.

On Tuesday, Hindupur in Anantapur recorded about 8 cm, Kavali in Nellore recorded 7 cm, Gooty in Anantapur received 6 cm, and Boath in Adilabad received 5 cm, while Tuni in East Godavari and Nirmal in Adilabad recorded 4 cm each.

Sunandini, Pashumitra promise better healthcare for cattle

The schemes, to be launched today, will provide fodder, medicine, insurance to animals and extend paramedical services to the areas where veterinary doctors are not available

With a sizeable cattle population, especially calves, dying every year owing to malnutrition and various diseases in the district, the State government will launch two special programmes—Sunandini and Pashumitra—here on Wednesday to ensure better healthcare to cattle.

According to sources, around 50 per cent of the 29,000 calves born in the district every year are female. About 20 to 25 per cent of the female calves —that comes around 3,000 per year/ about eight calves per day—die of malnutrition, diseases like worm burden, pneumonia and enteritis every year, moreover due to poor healthcare.

Multiple advantages

According to officials, Sunandini programme aims at providing better healthcare to the cattle population, with a special focus on the female calves born through artificial insemination.

As part of the programme, the cattle rearers will get Rs 5,000 for female calves aged three months and more, which will cover fodder, medicine and insurance. However, the farmers have to pay their share of Rs. 975 to avail the facility. On Wednesday, the scheme will be launched for 50 farmers in the district.

Paramedical services

Pashumitra is another scheme that will be launched with Sunandini on Wednesday, under which paramedical services for cattle will be extended to the areas where veterinary doctors are not available.

As part of the scheme, village youths who have completed their SSC will undergo special training sessions under the Rajiv Employment and Education Mission of Andhra Pradesh (REEMAP) for three months—45 days at Veterinary Polyclinics and 45 days at field level—to attend to the health problems of cattle. For this, they can collect some charges from farmers which will be fixed by the government depending on the services extended under the scheme.

Senior officials including Manmohan Singh, Principal Secretary and Prof. K.C. Reddy, Chairman, the REEMAP, will attend the programme, said Dr. K. Laxma Reddy, Joint Director, Animal Husbandry.

Five schemes to be launched to push up farm productivity

The Agriculture Department will soon come up with five schemes, which have been recently recommended by the Standing Finance Committee (SFC).

The new schemes include a technology mission on oilseeds and pulses, intercropping in fruit orchards, special scheme on banana crop, input subsidy in horticulture, and intensive extension campaign on agriculture.

The technology mission on oilseeds and pulses aims at achieving a target production of eight quintals per hectare of moong and black gram, five quintals per hectare of sesamum, and 6.5 quintals per hectare of mustard.

Under the plan, the State intends to set up demonstration plot in different agro-climatic conditions. Similarly, intercropping in fruit orchards will help provide livelihood support to farmers during the gestation period of main crop.

The SFC decided that small and marginal farmers be given preference. Farmers would be imparted training on good agronomic practices.

The State intends to provide input subsidy on seed, fertilizer, bio-fertilizer, insecticides, and bio-pesticides.

Under the new programmes, the productivity should be enhanced by at least 20 to 25 per cent over the normal field sowing. Besides, the farmers should reuse the materials at least for three seasons.

Under programme focusing on banana crop, the SFC wants the minimum productivity at 125 quintals per acre. There would be assured buy-back arrangement for purchase of produce from the farmers.

'Krushak Rath'

The Agriculture Department also mooted an idea of creating public awareness on programmes and schemes through 'Krushak Rath' – a specially decorated vehicle.

Small and marginal farmers to be given preference and imparted training in good agronomic practices

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TNAU takes up research on fine rice variety in saline soil

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University – Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute at Navalur Kuttapattu near here has taken up a research project on developing fine rice variety suited for salt-affected soil.

This is the first time that the institute, which is to celebrate its silver jubilee next year, has taken up a research project on fine rice variety. The institute was started to evolve rice varieties for saline soil about two decades ago and so far it has released three varieties —TRY-I, TRY-(R) II and TRY-III, all these were bold grain varieties. "We have collected a large number of species from the International Rice Research Institute in Philippines and all these seeds are salt tolerant varieties in different parts of the world. The fine variety will fetch attractive returns to farmers and the research is in progress," says P. Pandiarajan, dean of the Institute. Several beds of nurseries for various varieties had been raised at the institute. "We have been experimenting on the varieties which can withstand and grow in the soil condition in the Manikandam area," he says.

Pointing out that the Manikandam block accounted for 50,000 hectares of alkaline soil – maximum for a single block in the State, Mr. Pandiarajan said the institute had introduced reclamation of salt-affected soil using distillery spent wash.

So far, about 5,000 acres of land had been covered under the scheme benefiting 1,282 farmers growing paddy, banana, redgram and maize. The distillery spent wash was applied only once in these fields with a view to ensure environmental protection and the irrigation pattern and harvest benefits were closely monitored. The spent wash eliminates the use of potash in the fields.

"The discharge of distillery spent wash into the agricultural fields in the block reduces the alkaline quantum to a great extent. The yield has increased to a considerable extent — at least by 20 per cent over the normal yield registered during the previous seasons," he says.

The institute has entered into a MoU with four leading distillery industries in the district.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Onion farm gate prices expected to be above Rs 45/kg

Onion farm gate prices expected to be above Rs 45/kg

COIMBATORE: The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has advised farmers to store and sell small onion from mid-October onwards as farm gate prices are expected to be above Rs 45 per kg during harvest period of mid September- October.

During April-June, farm gate price (the price at which farmers sell produce to middlemen) was Rs 40 to Rs 50 due to lesser arrivals and started declining to Rs 24 to Rs 30, once Karnataka arrivals stated in June, according to Domestic Export and Market Intelligence Cell in TNAU here.

At present small onion price ranges between Rs 35 to Rs 43 in Dindigul market in Tamil Nadu, where the cell analysed the price behaviour in the last 15 years.

The prices are likely to increase from mid-September to October since onion bulbs are likely to purchased for sowing in large number, the cell said.

Grains and sugar prices steady at wholesale centres

Prices of wheat remained steady at most of the centers and decreased at one center, Mumbai.

KOLKATA: As per data monitored by theministry of consumer affairs and food, prices of grains and sugar during the week August 29 to 05 September, 2013 remained steady across the country. Price Monitoring cell of the Ministry regular monitors prices of twenty two essential commodities at 55 market centers.

During the period prices of rice remained steady at all reporting centers and decreased at three centers which were Jammu, Nagpur and Thiruvananthapuram. Prices of wheat also remained steady at most of the centers and decreased at one center, Mumbai.

Prices of Sugar remained steady at all the reporting centers and decreased at two centers which are Mumbai and Bhubaneswar.

Prices of twenty two essential commodities are regularly monitored by department of consumer affairs for taking suitable action to keep the prices under check. These commodities include rice, wheat, atta, gram dal, tur (Arhar) dal, urad dal, moong dal, masur dal, sugar, gur, groundnut oil, mustard oil, vanaspati, sunflower oil, soya oil, palm oil, tea, milk, potato, onion and salt.

Price datas are collected on daily basis from the State Civil Supplies Departments of the respective state governments.

Jeera exports may rise on weak rupee, Syria unrest

Shipments of jeera have increased by 25% in the first three months of the current financial year.

KOCHI: Indian jeera exports may touch a new high this year thanks to the political unrest in Syria, weak rupee and higher demand from China.

The jeera shipments have shown 25% increase in the first three months of the current year and exporters feel the growth rate will be sustained given the favourable conditions in the export market, taking the jeera exports to 1 lakh tonne mark.

Syria and Turkey are the two major suppliers of jeera or cumin in the global market besides India. The other producers are Iran and China. Syria had been facing poor crop prospects and now the internal crisis has made the matters worse. Normally, Syria and Turkey feed the neighbouring countries like Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and the Gulf.

Syria produces around 20-25,000 tonne. But this time there has been a decline in quantity as well as quality. To top it, Syrian exporters have been unable to send any consignments due the internal strife. The importers in other countries are not willing to take the risk of trading with Syria.

The production in Turkey has also dropped by 25 to 30% to around 7000 tonne. "Consequently, jeera demand from the Middle East countries has come to India. Weak rupee has made Indian prices attractive," said Shailesh Shah, director of Jabs International, the leading exporter of jeera in the country.

Vietnam is the leading buyer of Indian jeera followed by UAE and the US. China, which has good local consumption, is facing a 50% drop in production to 5000 tonne, according to a report by Geojit Comtrade.

"China has bought around 10,000 tonne from us in the last three months," Shailesh Shah pointed out. Despite high export demand besides good local consumption, the prices have not shot up because of adequate supply in the market.

"We are getting 6,000 to 7,000 bags (each bag of 55 kg) daily, which is more than what we used to get in the same time last year," said Deepak Parikh, partner of exporting firm Kanu Krishna Corporation. Though the sowing has not begun, the prospects for next year are predicted to be better because of good monsoon.

The sowing will begin after pooja holidays in October. "We don't expect the prices to move up from the current level in spite of good demand, until Diwali," said Jayesh Patel, a trader in Unjha in Gujarat, the hub of jeera trade in the country.

The spot jeera prices remained around Rs 136 per kg on Tuesday, 8% fall year-on-year. The October jeera futures in NCDEX are ruling around the same level.

Palm oil imports may drop on rupee fall

Palm oil imports by India, the world's largest consumer, probably fell for the second month in August as a record plunge in the nation's currency prompted buyers to defer purchases.

MUMBAI: Palm oil imports by India, the world's largest consumer, probably fell for the second month in August as a record plunge in the nation's currency prompted buyers to defer purchases. Futures in Malaysiadeclined.

Inbound shipments of crude palm oil and refined, bleached and deodorized palmolein fell 29% to 500,000 metric tonne last month from a year earlier, according to the median of estimates from five processors and brokers compiled by Bloomberg.

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India will release data this week. Total vegetable oil imports fell 18% to 740,000 tonne, the survey showed.

The rupee tumbled 8.1% in August on concern that a deepening economic slowdown will deter investors at a time when the US prepares to pare stimulus, boosting import costs of everything from cooking oils to crude and gold.

Almond declines on subdued demand

NEW DELHI: Almond prices fell by Rs 100 per 40 kg in the national capital today due to subdued demand from retailers and stockists amid adequate stocks amid rising rupee's value.

Almond (California) prices fell by Rs 100 to Rs 17,000 per 40 kg and its kernel rates also eased by Rs 5 to Rs 590-610 per kg.

Traders attributed fall in almond prices to subdued demand from stockists and strength in the rupee, making imports cheaper.

The following are today's quotations (per 40 kg): Almond (California) Rs 17,000 Almond (Gurbandi-new) Rs 8,200-8,600; Almond (Girdhi) Rs 4,800-5,300; Abjosh Afghani Rs 8,000-20,100.

Almond Kernel (California-new) Rs 590-610 per kg, Almond Kernel (Gurbandi-new) Rs 500-540 per kg.

Sugar prices fall on heavy stocks, ample supply

NEW DELHI: Dull conditions developed in the wholesale sugar market here today owing to sporadic buying support against adequate stocks position.

Marketmen said sufficient stocks against demand mainly held prices unmoved.

The following were today's quotations per quintal: Sugar ready: M-30 Rs 3,140-3,260, S-30 Rs 3,130-3,250. Mill delivery: M-30 Rs 2,950-3,145; S-30 Rs 2,940-3,125. Sugar mill gate (including duty): Mawana 3065, Kinnoni 3,145, Asmoli 3,125, Dorala 3,040, Budhana 3,120, Thanabhavan 3,090, Dhanora 3,070, Simbholi 3,130, Modi Nagar 3,140, Khatuli 3,050, Dhampur 3,015, Ramala 2,990, Bulandshar 2,965, Anupshar 2,970, Baghpat 3,000, Morna 3,000, Sakoti 2,975, Chandpur 2,960, Amroha 3,060 and Nazibabad 2970.

Business Standard

Vegetable oil refineries seek protection from rising imports

Saddled already with over-capacity, these are now faced with a surge in imports; urge govt to raise tariffs

The share of refined oil in overall vegetable oil import seems likely to hit a new high of 40 per cent this oil year (November 2012–October 2013), dismaying domestic refiners.

The major reason is an inverse duty structure in major exporting countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia, coupled with narrowing import duty differential between crude and refined oil.

Import of refined oil (termed refined, bleached and de-odorised or RBD oil) jumped to 22 per cent of the total between November 2012 and July 2013 at 1.8 million tonnes, as compared to 19 per cent or 1.3 mt in the same period of the previous year. Import of crude palm oil was 6.06 mt in the same period as against 5.8 mt in the same period of the previous year.
ALSO READ: More curbs on non-essential imports coming: FM

This rising import of refined oil is a threat for domestic refineries, which have built a capacity of 20 mt. Capacity utilisation is currently only 30 per cent from the peak season's 75 per cent.

"The share of imports of refined oil might go up to 50 per cent of the total next year if the trend continues," said B V Mehta, executive director of the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA), the apex trade body in the edible oil industry.

RISING SHARE OF REFINED OIL

Oil year (Nov-Oct)	Total quantity of import (million tonnes)	Share of refined oil (%)	Share of crude oil (%)
2009-10	8.82	14	86
2010-11	8.37	13	87
2011-12	9.98	16	84
2011-12*	7.10	19	81
2012-13*	7.82	22	78

Source: Solvent Extractors' Association, * Nov-Jul

Malaysia and Indonesia have kept an inverse duty structure, of an export levy of nine per cent on crude oil and only three per cent on refined oil. With this differential, Indian import of refined oil works out cheaper than buying crude oil.

“Processing of imported crude oil works out to a Rs 3,000-4,000 per tonne loss for Indian refineries. We have urged the government to raise import duty on both crude and refined oil by 10 per cent and to keep the duty differential between them at 7.5 per cent, as advised by the committee headed by Ashok Lahiri in 2004. Raising the import duty will force the Indonesian authority to reduce their prices proportionately due to high inventory and nullify its impact on the retail price in India,” said Dinesh Shahra, managing director, Ruchi Soya Industries.

Currently, the import duty on crude oil works out to 2.5 per cent and refined oil at 7.5 per cent.

Both Malaysia and Indonesia have around 3.5 mt of surplus inventory which they are looking to offload. Being the largest edible oil importer, with around 10.5 mt estimated for the current year, India will be a prime destination.

SEA says many small refining units have started declaring a closure, with loans borrowed from banks turning out as non-performing assets. There is already over-capacity and the sudden increase in import of refined oil would worsen the sentiment, said Pradeep Chowdhry, managing director of Gemini Edibles & Fats, a Hyderabad- based edible oil producer.

Rice stocks up on Russia lifting ban on imports from India

Stock of Kohinoor Foods jumped 10% to Rs 36.85 a piece on BSE

The share price of rice milling and trading companies moved up about 10 per cent on Tuesday, due to Russia lifting its ban on riceimport from India.

The stock of Kohinoor Foods jumped 10 per cent to Rs 36.85 apiece on the BSE on Tuesday. Stocks of other companies in rice milling and exports business, too, rose in tandem.

Russia announced lifting of rice import ban from India after nine months following a guarantee by Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce to Russian authorities for taking control of pests.

Following Russia lifting its import ban, Indian exporters will be able to send consignments of rice, rice cereals and peanuts to Russia with immediate effect. Russia had banned import of rice, rice cereals and peanuts from India in December 2012 following “khapra beetal (Trogoderma granarium), one of the world's most destructive pests of stored grain products and seeds, was discovered in a few consignments in early 2012.

The opening of exports market came at a time when the government of India is pursuing exporters.

“Although Russia is not a big market for Indian rice exports, opening up of this market will surely make a positive difference for exporters here,” said Gurnam Arora, joint managing director, Kohinoor Foods.

The ban had earlier strained trade relations between India and Russia. In June, the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (FSVPS) delegation from Russia visited India between June 23 and 30 this year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation was convinced with the report submitted to it. Following that, the Ministry was supportive.

Total basmati rice exports to Russia was witnessed at 789.19 tonnes during the financial year 2012-13 before the Russian authorities suspended imports of Indian rice in December 2012. Against that total basmati rice shipment to Russia was recorded at 337.13 tonnes in the financial year 2011-12.

Similarly, parboiled and other such variety of rice exports to Russia recorded at 55825.60 tonnes and 6425 tonnes in 2012-13 as compared to 5598 tonnes and 3565 tonnes respectively in the previous year.

Mustardseed down 1.4% on weak spot cues

Marketmen said increased arrivals and reduced offtake by oil mills in physical markets put pressure on traders to minimise holdings

Mustardseed prices fell by Rs 49 to Rs 3,562 per quintal in the futures trade today owing to increased selling, guided by weak spot markets sentiment.

Marketmen said increased arrivals and reduced offtake by oils mills in physical markets mainly put pressure on traders to minimise holdings.

Weakness in other edible oils also dampened the trading sentiments, they said.

At he National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, mustardseed for November contract fell by Rs 49, or 1.36% to Rs 3,562 per quintal in open interest of 21,160 lots.

Near October contract slipped by Rs 48, or 1.34% to Rs 3,524 per quintal, having an open interest of 45,550 lots.

Current September contract dropped by Rs 45, or 1.28% to Rs 3,480 per quinta, clocking an open interest of 23,420 lots.

Potato down over 1% on subdued demand

Potato for delivery in March declined by 0.91%

Potato prices fell by Rs 9.30 to Rs 786 per quintal today as speculators offloaded their positions due to low demand in the spot market.

At the Multi Commodity exchange, potato prices for September delivery fell by Rs 9.30, or 1.16%, to Rs 786 per quintal, with a trade volume of just one lot.

The potato for delivery in March also declined by Rs 7.50, or 0.91%, to Rs 810.10 per quintal, with a business turnover of one lot.

Analysts said offloading of positions by speculators amid low demand in the spot market, mainly put pressure on potato prices at futures trade.

Cardamom down 1.3% on profit booking

Adequate stocks availability in the physical market influenced the cardamom futures

Cardamom prices fell 1.34% to Rs 705 per kg in futures trade today as speculators booked profits at prevailing higher levels amid sluggish demand in the spot market.

Adequate stocks availability in the physical market also influenced the cardamom futures.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in September fell by Rs 9.60, or 1.34%, to Rs 705 per kg, With a business turnover of just one lot.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in October declined by Rs 7.20, or 0.92%, to Rs 770 per kg, with a business turnover of 431 lots.

Marketmen said besides profit-booking by speculators, sluggish demand in the spot market mainly kept pressure on cardamom prices at futures trade.

Crude palm oil declines 2.3% on profit-booking

Oil for delivery in September shed 1.61%

Crude palm oil prices declined by 2.34% to Rs 529 per 10 kg in futures trade today on emergence of profit-booking by speculators and subdued spot demand.

Besides, weak trend in overseas market further fuelled the downtrend in crude palm oil futures.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in October declined by Rs 12.70, or 2.34%, to Rs 529 per 10 kg, with a business turnover of 362 lots.

Likewise, the oil for delivery in September shed Rs 8.80, or 1.61%, to Rs 535.50 per 10 kg, with a business turnover of 258 lots.

Traders said besides profit-taking by speculators, subdued spot demand and a weak trend overseas led to decline in crude palm oil prices at futures market.

In Malaysia, palm oil fell to over two-week low after a drop in crude oil reduced the appeal of vegetable oils as biofuel feedstock, and as investors waited for government data that may show that output expanded.

Palm for November delivery fell as much as 1.60% to 2,360 ringgit (USD 722) a metric ton on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the lowest price for the most-active contract since Aug. 23.

Mentha oil down 2.2% on profit-booking

Oil for delivery in October declined by 2.13%

Mentha oil prices fell by 2.20% to Rs 899.10 per kg in futures trade today as speculators booked profits at prevailing higher levels amid a weak demand in the spot market.

Adequate stocks position in the physical market following increased arrivals from Chandousi in Uttar Pradesh also fuelled the downtrend in mentha oil prices.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, mentha oil for delivery in September fell by Rs 20.30, or 2.20%, to Rs 899.10 per kg, with a business turnover of Rs 562 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in October declined by Rs 19.80, or 2.13%, to Rs 912.80 per kg in 107 lots.

Marketmen attributed the fall in mentha oil futures to profit-booking by speculators after recent gains and a weak industrial demand in the spot market.

THE HINDU Business Line

Tea prices drop in N. India sale

Kolkata, Sept 10:

At Sale Number 36 at the Kolkata tea auction last week, the average prices of both CTC and orthodox were lower than the previous week.

According to J. Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd, the tea auctioneers, the average price of CTC at Rs 140.96 a kg was lower than Rs 143.48 in sale No. 35. The corresponding figures for orthodox were Rs 216.85 and Rs 227.68, respectively. An estimated 80.48 per cent (78.31 per cent) of CTC and 86.25 per cent (88.7 per cent) of orthodox volumes offered were sold. Last week, the total offerings (packages) at the Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri centres were 4,62,210 compared to 3,89,629 in the corresponding sale of last year. The Kolkata offerings were CTC/dust 1,60,931 , orthodox 44,764 and Darjeeling 5,104 . The corresponding offerings at the other centres were: Guwahati 1,44,429 (1,10,113) and Siliguri 1,06,982 (99,804). Assam CTC teas met with improved demand at irregularly lower rates following quality. Plainer sorts saw better enquiries and were generally firm to occasionally dearer. Dooars were around last levels and at times appreciated. Tata Global was active. Hindustan Unilever operated selectively for the mediums. Western India operated for the liquoring teas. CIS and West Asia shippers were active.

A cool way to chill milk

Turns to MIT engineer, Boston techie for solution

New avenues: Milk being poured for rapid chilling at a Hatsun procurement centre near Salem. Dairies use bulk cooling tanks to chill the milk to about 4 degrees Celsius at procurement centres.

Salem, Sept. 10:

There are few better sources of wholesome nutrition than milk straight from a cow's or buffalo's udders.

But the sheer time taken for milk from the udders to be collected at a centre and transported to a dairy or chilling plant – roughly four hours – translates into significant loss of freshness and aroma. The shelf life of the milk is lower even after pasteurisation, while boiling depletes its original nutritional value.

As a solution, many dairies of late have sought to get the milk chilled at the procurement centres itself.

Chilling basically stunts the growth of bacteria converting the lactose or sugar in the milk into lactic acid, which curdles the proteins and causes souring. It should be done within one/one-and-half hour of milking, after which the naturally occurring preservatives in the milk (including carbon dioxide) stop working.

Cooling in Bulk

Dairies now use bulk cooling tanks to chill their milk to about 4 degrees Celsius at their procurement centres. These tanks, of 3,000-5,000 litres capacity, keep the milk chilled till the tanker from the dairy arrives.

But the coolers have three major drawbacks, according to R.G. Chandramogan, Chairman and Managing Director of the Rs 2,200-crore Hatsun Agro Product Ltd, that procures an average 20 lakh litres of milk a day. The first is the capacity. While 3,000 litres is what an American or

European dairy producer supplies daily – making it viable to have a cooler even at the farm itself – his average Indian counterpart barely delivers 10 litres. “Forget individual farmers, even our procurement centres handle less than 1,000 litres each. So, you operate the bulk coolers at suboptimal capacity,” said Chandramogan.

Second, given irregular power supply in rural areas, the bulk coolers require the back-up of a diesel generator set.

That again raises costs – a 5,000-litre cooler with generator set and other installations comes at Rs 9 lakh or so – besides causing noise and air pollution. Third, the bulk coolers take 3-3.5 hours to chill the milk to 4 degrees. There is no instant chilling here, more so with many farmers pouring one after the other milk at ambient temperatures. Real chilling happens only when the pouring stops.

Solar chilling

Given these problems, it was natural for Chandramogan to be interested in a solar-based ‘rapid milk chilling’ concept floated by Sorin Grama, an electrical engineer from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Sam White, who had worked in various start-ups at Boston.

What they had in mind was a thermal battery that could use stored electricity from the sun to reduce the temperature of a liquid coolant to sub-zero.

The battery would also have a compressor to pump the coolant – a proprietary solution having a freezing point below that of water – through tubes to a separate cylinder-shaped chilling unit.

The milk collected from farmers is poured on top of the cylinder, maintained at about minus 3 degrees by the circulating fluid.

As the milk goes over the cylinder at a flow rate of around 200 litres an hour, it gets chilled and conveyed to an insulated storage silo.

It can remain chilled there for up to 12 hours. What this entire system essentially aimed at was to decouple the supply of power from chilling:

The battery would get charged whenever electricity from the sun was available, while the refrigeration cycle operated independently.

concept to implementation

“I liked the idea, even though such a system hadn’t been installed anywhere. I offered to fund it, including the cost of installing it at my Karumapuram dairy here”, recalled Chandramogan. Grama and White spent all of 2010 designing and building their rapid milk chilling system in Boston. This they shipped out for installing at Hatsun’s plant in February 2011.

But Chandramogan wasn't really impressed with what he saw. "Although it chilled effectively, the equipment with all its solar panels occupied some 300 sq. feet, which was almost like opening a new procurement centre," he said. Grama and White eventually dispensed with the idea of solar-powered milk chiller.

Instead, they developed a new thermal battery that could store electricity even when available for 12 hours daily and release that energy to run a refrigeration cycle.

They also designed a more compact system capable of storing extra thermal energy in lesser space. The earlier 2,000-litre solar battery could chill only 500 litres of milk. The present 500 litre battery can chill 1,000 litres.

Hatsun Agro has already installed three rapid milk chillers – each costing Rs 5 lakh – and placed orders for another 50 from Promethean Spenta Technologies, the company founded by Grama and White.

"We are also supplying to Amul, Nestle and Heritage Foods," said Grama, who is working on adapting the same energy storage technology to other cold-chain applications in power-deficit rural environments.

The basic technology concept in this case may have come from Boston and MIT. But the credit for making it work on the ground probably goes to Hatsun Agro.

"We wanted a chilling system that could work without continuous electricity and generator sets, while factoring in our realities of collecting milk from thousands of small producers.

That objective has been served," Chandramogan said.

Kharif pulses output will be higher, but can it be a record?

Area increases to 99.6 lakh hectares

Heading for record (in million tonnes)

Crop	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Tur	2.27	2.46	2.86	2.65	3.07
Urad	0.84	0.81	1.40	1.23	1.45
Moong	0.78	0.44	1.53	1.24	0.76
Other pulses	0.80	0.49	1.33	0.93	0.63
Total	**4.49**	**4.20**	**7.12**	**6.06**	**5.91**

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Mumbai, Sept 10:

After having come down from record high prices last year, the prices of pulses could come under further pressure this year, thanks to hopes of a better kharif production.

But there is a caveat. The drop in prices will depend on the impact that the hike in diesel prices will make on the overall production costs of farmers.

The South-West monsoon has been well-spread this year, resulting in production of pulses rising by nearly 20 per cent.

Estimates made by various quarters put the production around 70 lakh tonnes compared with 59 lakh tonnes a year ago.

Kharif production accounts for 35 per cent of the annual pulses production in the country.

Tur, urad and moong are the major pulses grown in kharif season. Kharif pulses production hit a record 71.2 lakh tonnes in 2010-11.

The area under kharif pulses has increased substantially this year to 99.6 lakh hectares against 85.3 lakh hectares last year. But, it is lower than the normal area of 110 lakh hectares.

Pravin Dongre, Chairman, Indian Pulses and Grains Association, says that pulses coverage this year has been higher and expectations are that the output would touch 65 lakh tonnes-70 lakh tonnes, depending on the yield.

He also says when the final figures on sowing come out, the acreage could be above the normal coverage.

The National Collateral Management Services Ltd, which runs a commodity and risk management services, however, sees pulses production being hit by floods in some parts of the country, especially Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

On the other side, pulses acreage has gained this year on account of the Government’s efforts to boost domestic production through higher minimum support prices.

The support price for tur has been raised to Rs 4,350 a quintal from Rs 3,850 last year.

In the last two years, the support prices have been raised by over 30 per cent for all pulses.

The pulses and grains body sees a record output for the whole year at 184.50 lakh tonnes against the previous one of 182.4 lakh tonnes in 2010-11.

The higher production could also result in lower imports of pulses. Indian is the highest producer, consumer and importer in the world.

“Imports could drop to 30 lakh tonnes this year. This will also be due to over 25 per cent drop in the rupee’s value since the beginning of this year,” says Dongre.

During 2012-13 fiscal, 32 lakh tonnes of pulses were imported with yellow peas making up 50 per cent.

“Unless prices drop in some origins, it is unlikely that imports will be higher,” says Dongre.

But there could some impact of the fall-out in the country, he says. “With expectation of higher output, prices may drift lower. Sadly for the farmers, the higher support price for pulses could remain only on paper,” says Dongre.

The efforts to woo farmers to grow pulses could be affected if the support prices is not ensured across the States,” he says.

A better way to handle the issue may be to bring pulses under the public distribution system, says the association.

Going by the association and trade views, a lower price for pulses could create trouble next year as growers could shift to alternative crops such as soyabean and cotton.

According to the National Collateral Management Services Ltd, production would be higher this kharif but the final outcome will depend on how the weather behaves until harvest.

Groundnut oil may slip further on new arrivals

Rajkot, Sept 10:

Groundnut oil remained under pressure with expectation of bumper production of groundnut and very poor demand.

Cotton oil also declined as buying activity has decreased.

Groundnut oil new tin declined by Rs 15 to Rs 1,510-1,515 for 10 kg.

While loose groundnut oil was traded at Rs 795-800 for 10 kg and *teliya* tin stood at Rs 1,235-1,236 for 15 kg.

Since last one week, groundnut oil declined almost by Rs 60 for 15 kg tin due to weak demand.
According to millers, bulk buying from the mills was very nominal.
Retail demand also remained low.
According to market sources, buyers knew that groundnut oil price may decrease further as new crop of groundnut would start arriving soon.
Of the 16.60 lakh hectares of land, where groundnut sowing took place in the State, 14.38 lakh hectares were in Saurashtra region, and 1.43 lakh ha in North Gujarat.
Similarly cotton oil also decreased as demand had slowed down.
Cotton oil wash price moved down by Rs 8 to Rs 607-610 for 10 kg and cotton oil new tin declined by Rs 10 to Rs 1,090-1,100 for 15 kg.
About 30-35 tankers of cotton oil were traded from mills in Saurashtra.

Spot rubber stays unchanged

Kottayam, Sept 10:
Spot rubber prices continued to rule unchanged on Tuesday.
The market opened steady and maintained the initial trend following an almost similar rate in the near month futures on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.
Sheet rubber closed flat at Rs 187 a kg at Kottayam and Kochi, according to traders and the Rubber Board. Volumes were dull.
Meanwhile, the benchmark TOCOM rubber futures lost ground as investors booked profits to cash in on the recent rises, while weaker oil prices weighed on the market.
In the futures market, the September contract improved marginally to Rs 187.50 (Rs 187.38), while the October contract weakened to Rs 186 (Rs 187.78), November to Rs 186.90 (Rs 189.09) and December to Rs 188.65 (Rs 191.19) a kg on the NMCE. RSS 3 (spot) declined to Rs 176.44 (Rs 178.42) at Bangkok. The September futures closed at ¥267 (Rs 170.29) a kg on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.
Spot rubber rates (Rs/kg) were: RSS-4: 187 (187); RSS-5: 183 (183); Ungraded: 177 (177); ISNR 20: 172 (172) and Latex 60%: 133 (133).

Tea exports to Pak may drop on higher crop in Kenya

African threat: A tea bud displayed beside processed tea.

Kolkata, Sept. 10:

If the trend in first seven months is any indication, tea exports to Pakistan could be lower this year compared with last year. In fact, they will be much lower than 2011.

Between January and July this year, 8.32 million kg (mkg) were shipped out compared with nearly 11 mkg in the same period last year and close to 12 mkg in 2011. In 2011 (full year), a record 25.2 mkg were exported to Pakistan, prompting the exporters to set a target of 50 mkg by 2015. This now appears to be rather ambitious. In 2012, exports were 21.65 mkg. Tea industry sources attribute the current trend to abundance of cheaper Kenyan tea in Pakistan, thanks to bumper crop in East Africa's major tea producing country.

In the first five months of the year, Kenya harvested its biggest crop since 2003. Output surged during the period to 194.9 mkg, up 52 per cent from the same period in 2012. Also, political turmoil in Egypt and Syria has aggravated the glut as Kenya is finding it hard to hit the targeted exports to these countries. The crisis in Egypt, the world's fifth largest tea importer, has dampened demand at a time when production has rebounded after several years of bad crop. Egypt buys from Kenya an estimated six to seven mkg a month , roughly 25 per cent of its total tea import. Kenyan tea prices have now plunged more than a third over the past year and traders fear that the prices could fall further if the crisis in West Asian and North African tea drinking nations continue to lower sales.

Kenya, therefore, is trying to push its produce to other markets, particularly Pakistan, the single largest buyer of Kenyan tea, by quoting lower rates.

Kenya has been joined by East Africa's other tea producing nations, also experiencing bumper crop, as tea exports are critical for these economies. Reports from Pakistan suggest the price of

Kenyan tea dropped by more than Rs 100 a kg in the local market, the two-year low. For example, the whole sale price of BP 1 variety (high grown) has dropped to Rs 450-460 from earlier Rs 570. Similarly, the price of PF 1 (leaf) has dropped to Rs 425 from Rs 530. The improved availability of cheaper tea, however, has not boosted Pakistan's tea import through the official trading channel. Instead, imports of smuggled tea have surged. There are two reasons for this. First, the depreciation of the country's currency against the dollar has rendered official imports costlier, squeezing the traders' profit margin that is much higher on tea smuggled through the Afghan Transit Trade. Second, traders resent the recent hike in the standard rate of sales tax to 16 per cent, indicating that the "undocumented sector will flood the market".

21% of teas unsold at Coonoor sale

Coonoor, Sept. 10:

Some 21 per cent of the 12.36 lakh kg offered for Sale No: 36 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auctions remained unsold with prices rising by Re 1 a kg.

Among CTC teas, pekoe dust of Homedale Estate, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, topped when Jaykay Enterprises bought it for Rs 178 a kg. Crosshill Estate, Deepika Supreme and Shanthi Supreme got Rs 174 each, Vigneshwar Estate Rs 173 and Hittakkal Estate Rs 172. In all, 80 marks got Rs 125.

Chamraj topped othrthodox at Rs 243. Kodanad got Rs 231, Highfield Estate Rs 200, Corsley Rs 196, Mailoor Estate premium Rs 185, Havukal Rs 182 and K airbetta Rs 180. In all, 39 marks got Rs 125. Exporters to Pakistan paid Rs 74-101 and to the CIS, Rs 65-93. Quotations indicated bids ranging Rs 66-71 for plain leaf grades and Rs 115-150 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged Rs 73-78 for plain dusts and Rs 120-170 for brighter liquoring dusts.

Tenders soon for wheat exports from Central pool

Awaiting shipment: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs cleared the export of two million tonnes of wheat last month.

New Delhi, Sept 10:

State-run entities such as MMTC, STC and PEC will soon start floating tenders to export about two million tonnes of wheat stored by the Food Corporation of India. .

Wheat stored in FCI godowns under the Central pool in Kakinada, Mundra and Kandla ports will be shipped out by March 2014, an official said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had cleared the export of two million tonnes of wheat last month.

Buoyed by the earlier response, the Government is expected to retain the floor price at $300 a tonne to test the market response.

However, the prevailing global prices are lower by 20-30 per cent for wheat of comparable quality originating from Black Sea countries such as Ukraine and Russia.

The Black Sea origin wheat for feed purpose is quoting at $230 a tonne, while the milling variety is fetching $240 a tonne free-on-board, an analyst said.

For 2012-13, 4.24 million tonnes of wheat were exported from the Government stocks and the average realised price was $311.38 a tonne.

Besides helping earn foreign exchange, wheat exports are expected to help FCI create space for storing the upcoming kharif rice stocks.

Exports would also help FCI save storage and handling costs of about Rs 25 crore for one lakh tonnes of wheat.

Wheat exports have slowed down in recent months, as buyers mainly from the Far-East, have switched over to cheaper grain from Black Sea.

Total exports in the current fiscal, including shipments by private players, are estimated at around two million tonnes.

As on September 1, the central foodgrain stocks stood at 58.93 million tonnes, with wheat stocks making up 38.3 million tonnes and rice 20.57 million tonnes.

The stocks are more than twice the requirement for buffer and strategic reserves.

Pepper falls on liquidation

Kochi, Sept. 10:

Pepper futures witnessed a sharp fall as the running contract is nearing maturity.

The spot market remained steady despite selling pressure on good buying support. There was reportedly good selling pressure from Kerala's plains, probably for money needed for meeting the Onam festival expenses, and low bulk density pepper of 490GL to 525 GL, with high moisture content, was being traded at Rs 409 a kg.

Much of the domestic demand was met by direct supplies from Karnataka at Rs 400 delivered at the doorsteps of the buyer anywhere in India on cash and carry basis, market sources told*Business Line*. The domestic demand for the winter season is expected to pick up from now onwards after the Vinayaka Chathurti, they said.

On the spot, 42 tonnes of farm grade pepper arrived and 45 tonnes of the material were traded at Rs 409-415 a kg depending upon the quality, they said. On the NMCE, Sep and Oct contracts fell sharply by Rs 1,092 and Rs 964 respectively to Rs 43,500 and Rs 44,502 a quintal.

Total open interest moved up by five tonnes to 49 tonnes. Total turn over increased by 15 tonnes to 34 tonnes.

Spot prices remained unchanged on matching demand and supply at Rs 40,900 (ungarbled) and Rs 42,900 (garbled) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market rose to $7,050 (c&f) Europe and $7,300 a tonne (c&f) for the US and remained competitive.

According to an overseas report today, prices quoted in the international markets for various origins were: L Asta Sep/Oct $7,450/7,500; V Asta ranged from $7,425-7,500 and Brazil B Asta quoted at $6,750/6,875 a tonne (fob).

Turmeric may rule at current levels till weekend

Erode, Sept. 10:

Turmeric prices ruled unchanged on Tuesday despite poor arrivals.

“Only a few farmers brought turmeric for sale expecting good price. But traders purchased only 55 per cent of the 2,400 bags that arrived and quoted prices that have been prevailing on Saturday. Stockists purchased only few bags. The poor arrival is due to the marriage season,”said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that price may continue at current levels till the weekend as chances for increase are remote. The price in turmeric futures market also ruled low. Due to arrival of medium quality turmeric at the Regulated Market committee, the price of the finger variety decreased by Rs 200 a quintal. At Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,770-5,809 and the root variety Rs 3,711-5,175 quintal.

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 5,537-6,489; the root variety Rs 4,691-5,619. Of the 578 bags that arrived, 330 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety ruled at Rs 4,869-5,781 and the root variety Rs 4,409-5,209. Of the 216 bags on offer, 214 were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,559-5,850; the root variety Rs 4,489-5,320. Of the 368 bags put up for sale, 365 were sold.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,089-5,912; the root variety Rs 4,569-5,212. Of the 228 bags that arrived, 214 found takers.

Slack response to resale of edible oils at lower rates

Mumbai, Sept. 10:

The edible oils market witnessed a bearish trend on Tuesday, tracking weak futures market and slack physical demand. Malaysian palm oil futures fell to the lowest in more than two weeks, tracking losses in the US soya market. The volumes remained thin as stockists kept away from fresh bets.

In Mumbai, imported palmolein and soyabean refined oil lost Rs 7 and Rs 4 for 10 kg each. Sunflower and cotton refined oil declined by Rs 5 and Rs 10 each. Groundnut oil ruled steady, despite losses in Saurashtra market. Rapeseed oil was unchanged.

Sources said that strong domestic currency makes import parity lower and bearish Malaysian palm oil futures forced refineries to cut their rates by Rs 10-15. In absence of fresh demand, resellers kept selling at lower rates but the response was very poor. During the day, 80-100 tonnes of palmolein were traded in isolation at Rs 582-583. Besides that, there were no activities.

Towards the day’s close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 590, super palmolein Rs 625 and super deluxe Rs 645, soyabean refined oil Rs 665 and sunflower refined oil Rs 830. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 588-590, soyabean refined oil Rs 657 and sunflower refined oil Rs 825.

Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 590, super palmolein Rs 635, soyabean refined oil Rs 665 and sunflower refined oil Rs 830. Gokul's rate was Rs 583 for palmolein.

At Rajkot, groundnut oil was steady on third consecutive day at Rs 1,260 (Rs 1,300) for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) Rs 800 (Rs 825). Soyabean arrivals were 70,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,325-3,400 ex mandi and Rs 3,450-3,550 for plant delivery. Mustard seed arrivals were 90,000 bags and prices were Rs 3,080- 3,700.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's October contracts settled lower at MYR 2,354 (MYR 2,402), November at MYR 2,351 (MYR 2,399) and December at MYR 2,351 (MYR 2,402).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 850 (850), soya refined oil 657(661), sunflower exp. ref. 735 (740), sunflower ref. 815(820), rapeseed ref. oil 730(730), rapeseed expeller ref. 700(700) cottonseed ref. oil 660(670) and palmolein 585 (592).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd has quoted Rs 645/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein - forward delivery.

Rice market likely to be range-bound

Karnal, Sept. 10:

It is hard to anticipate the rice market future currently and it is unlikely to see any major alteration in the next few days. The market may continue to rule around current levels with marginal fluctuations, according to traders.

The rice market witnessed a mixed trend on Tuesday with a surprising uptrend in aromatic varieties, while non-basmati varieties continued to rule flat on moderate buying.

An uptrend at this time of the year is not justified, Amit Chandna, proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told *Business Line*. Despite the fact that new crop is round the corner, the market is doing well, he said.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) went up by Rs 300 and sold at Rs 8,300-8,400 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs 7,700-7,800 , Rs 100 up from previous level.

Duplicate basmati (steam) improved by Rs 150 and sold at Rs 6,750 .

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Dubar moved up by Rs 100 and quoted at Rs 3,700, Tibar sold at Rs 4,400 while Mongra was at Rs 3,100 , Rs 200 up from previous levels.

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 2,350 , 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 3,000-3,080 .

New crop arrivals may crush soyabean

Indore, Sept. 10:

Soyabean traded lower on weak global cues and slack demand. Amid arrivals of 70,000-75,000 bags, soyabean prices in mandis across Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday ruled at Rs 3,350-3,400 a quintal.

Besides weak global cues, scattered and selective arrivals of new crop also added to the bearish sentiment.

Indore mandis today witnessed arrival of 80 bags of new soyabean and its average price was quoted at Rs 3,000 , while 500 bags of new crop were offloaded in nearby Mhow mandi and it fetched Rs 2,600-3,200 .

As mandis in Madhya Pradesh remained closed on Monday on account of Ganesh Chaturthi, arrival in the State was comparitively low with about 75,000 bags against 1.50 lakh bags last week. With the monsoon almost making an exit from Madhya Pradesh, arrival will gain pace in the coming days and it will further add to the bearish sentiment in soyabean, said a trader Mukesh Purohit.

In futures also, soyabean traded lower on weak buying support and global cues with its October and November contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,370 (down Rs 105) and Rs 3,377.50 (down Rs 98) respectively.

Plant deliveries in soyabean also ruled flat at Rs 3,500-50 .

In the domestic market soyameal was at Rs 30,100-30,200 (down Rs 1,000 from last week), while on Kandla port it ruled at Rs 32,000 (down Rs 1,000 from last week).

Soya oil also traded lower at Rs 640-45 (down Rs 20 from last week), while soya solvent declined to Rs 604-608 (down Rs 14 from last week).

In futures also soya oil traded lower on weak buying support and global cues with its September and October contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 678.25 (down Rs 16) and Rs 657.15 (down Rs 18.50) respectively.

Continuous selling by mills checks sugar

Mumbai, Sept. 10:

Sugar prices in the physical market ruled unchanged on routine activities on Tuesday. In the futures market,prices extended their loss in absence of any positive cues. On the spot, M-grade rose by Rs 8 a quintal, while S-grade was unchanged. Naka and mill tender rates were steady.

Sources said that as market was closed for the past two days, demand from stockists continued but sufficient and continuous arrivals from mills kept the price under check. Neighbouring States buying was also absent. The Vashi wholesale market is carrying ample inventory keeping stockists away from buying. Due to surplus stocks with producers, they continue selling in the local market. The new crushing season will start form next month.

Arrivals in the Vashi market were 63-64 truckloads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 62-63 loads. On Saturday, 12-13 mills offered tenders and sold about 33,000-34,000 bags at Rs 2,880-2,960 (Rs 2,880-2,960) for S-grade and Rs 2,990-3,060 (Rs 2,990- ,060) for M-grade. Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 3,026-3,141 (Rs 3,026-3,142) and M-grade Rs 3,170-3,312 (Rs 3,162-3,312). *Naka* delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,960-3,040 (Rs 2,960-3,040) and M-grade Rs 3,090-3,220 (Rs 3,100-3,220).

Uttar Pradesh rates were: Lakhimpur Rs 3,420 and Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,330.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Milk costlier by Rs 2/litre from today

Pay Rs 2 more for a litre of milk from Wednesday. According to the Karnataka Milk Federation, the price for a litre of Nandini toned milk will be Rs 29 in South Karnataka and `30 in Northern Karnataka.

KMF said the price rise is due to rising costs of diesel and fodder, which also account for the differential geographic pricing. Besides this, they said they need to raise Rs 160 crore to set up a plant to make flexi-packs for the Ksheera Bhaya scheme, where 150ml flavoured milk is given to school and anganwadi children, three times a week. They also want to invest Rs 200 crore to increase production of whole milk powder, to include anganwadi children.

Animal Husbandry Minister T B Jayachandra on Tuesday sought to distance the government from the hike. He said: “It is a decision taken by milk unions, who are independent co-operative agencies.’’

KMF officials said that in southern areas of the state, the price of double toned milk would be Rs 28 a litre, homogenised toned milk Rs 30 a litre, homogenised cow milk Rs 33 a litre, Shubham milk Rs 35 a litre, Shubham homogenised milk Rs 36 a litre, Samruddhi Rs 38 a litre and curd would be Rs 18 for 500 grams.

In northern areas like Dharwad, Bellary, Belgaum, Bijapur, Gulbarga, homogenised toned milk would be Rs 31 a litre, homogenised cow milk Rs 34 a litre, Shubham milk Rs 36 a litre, while Shubham homogenised milk, Samruddi and curd would cost the same as in the South.

Hotels, meanwhile, might have to increase prices. Chandrashekar Hebbar, president, Bruhat Bangalore Hoteliers’ Association said, “We use milk and milk products for most of the dishes. We need them to prepare sweets and North Indian dishes. We did not hike rates when LPG prices were raised. Now we will study the situation for a few days and calculate the price hike.”

hindustantimes

Weather

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather

Rainy

Wednesday, Sep 11

Max | Min

32° | 24°

Rain: 85
Humidity: 89
Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:57
Sunset: 06:13
Barometer: 1006

Tomorrow's Forecast

Cloudy

Thursday, Sep 12

Max | Min

32° | 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday **Sep 13**	Saturday **Sep 14**	Sunday **Sep 15**	Monday **Sep 16**	Tuesday **Sep 17**
31° | 23°	33° | 23°	32° | 22°	33° | 23°	33° | 23°
Cloudy	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Nandini milk costlier by Rs 2/ltr from today

BANGALORE: The price of Nandini milk, supplied by the Karnataka Milk Federation, goes up by Rs 2 a litre from Wednesday.

The market price of a litre of the toned milk (blue packet) is Rs 28 in the Old Mysore region (includes Bangalore), and Rs 30 in coastal and north Karnataka districts. It will now be Rs 30 per litre from Wednesday. For 520 ml, the revised rate is Rs 15.

This is the third increase in six months. In February, producers hiked the price from Rs 24 to Rs 26 a litre on the grounds that the cost of fodder had gone up, and by Re 1 in August to give farmers an incentive.

KMF managing director AS Premnath attributed the latest hike to diesel price as it has pushed up the cost of milk collection, distribution and transportation charges.

Farmers to get cash for helping increase tree cover

AHMEDABAD: The agriculture department and the forest department have decided to give cash incentives to farmers who allow trees to be planted along their fields. The government intends to plant trees on agricultural land to increase the state's tree cover.

In the recent tree count undertaken by the government, the state's rural areas had 30 crore trees. The forest department has now been given the task of increasing the state's tree cover and also increase the tree count to 35 crore trees. For this, the forest department has come up with the scheme under which cash subsidy or other incentives will be given to farmers who permit the department to plant 1000 trees in one hectare of land. The farmers will be given a subsidy of Rs 20,000 per year for a period of five years for permitting plantation.

Officials said that the forest department has already begun the process of planting trees on

16,000 hectares of land in the state. Most of this land is in North Gujarat. According to officials, 15,000 farmers have already taken benefit of the scheme.

A senior official said that the scheme had been taken up jointly taken up by the agriculture and forest departments. If tribal people permitted planting of 2000 trees on one hectare of land in a tribal area, they would be given Rs 5,000 per month per family, the official said. Further, the government had decided to pay Rs 60,000 per annum in tribal areas as there was rampant cutting of forests in these places, the official said.

Officials said that the department is distributing Dangi and valsadi teak which also fetch good money when fully grown.

Additional principal conservator of forests, social forestry, HS Singh, said that as on date, 3.1 million cubic meter of wood was produced from agriculture fields and the market value, according to the 2009 price index, was estimated by the planning commission to be Rs 4,388 crore.

"Our target is to take the production of wood from agricultural fields to 5 million cubic meters," Singh said. He further said that the forest department has also decided to give high quality saplings to farmers and will help them get quality teak.

Milk producers urge govt to hike procurement price

NAMAKKAL: The failure of the monsoon and the consequent crop loss in the past year has triggered a hike in the rates of all commonly used cattle foods including paddy straw, ground nut and soya cakes. Consequently, milk producers have appealed to the state government to increase procurement rate at the earliest.

"There is severe shortage of paddy straw across the district. An acre of paddy straw used to cost Rs2000 but now we pay Rs5000 for the same quantity," said C Rangasamy, a Namakkal milk producer. "The situation is particularly bad in non-delta areas where farmers have preferred to leave their fields fallow," Rangasamy said.

K Mohammed Ali, general secretary of Tamil Nadu Milk Producers' Association said that the price of complex cattle feed has increased to Rs.1, 450 for a bag of 60 kg. The same feed was selling at Rs.550 in January, 2013 he said. "With the steep rise in the price of feed and shortage of straw, we have to ration them to our cattle," he said.

According to Ali, Aavin had closed its cattle feed manufacturing units in Madurai, Chennai and Vellore, forcing cattle owners to depend fully on private producers. The government should take steps to revive its cattle feed units. "Although the Tamil Nadu government recently announced they would give a 25 per cent subsidy for complex cattle feed to cooperative society members through Aavin, nothing has been done," Ali said. "Tamil Nadu should follow Karnataka's model, increasing procurement price by Rs2 and offering an incentive of Rs2 for milk producers annually," he added. For the milk producers to survive the fodder price hike, he said the government should increase procurement price by at least Rs5 per liter for cow's milk and Rs7 per liter for buffalo's milk.

Based on a data available with Tamil Nadu Milk Producers Association, more than 15 lakh cattle owners produce milk in Tamil Nadu. Of them, five lakh producers supply milk to Aavin. Total milk production in the state had increased to 26 lakh litres from 22 lakh litres. This is mainly because Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka had stopped procuring milk from the border districts of Tamil Nadu. Earlier, these States used to procure 80 per cent of the total milk production in border villages.

Milk producers' across the state are planning to stage one day protest on September 24. "We will stage the protest in front of all the state government offices and co-operative milk societies across the state," Ali said.

Drip irrigation system gaining momentum in Kodaikanal

KODAIKANAL: Progressive farmers inKodaikanal are realising the benefits of micro irrigation in cultivating horticultural crops, and are now reaping more agricultural yield for implementing drip irrigation system in their farmlands.

A subsidy of 100% is being given to the farmers in the region for implementing micro irrigation system in order to encourage them. In this regard, a team of the horticulture department's officials recently visited farms to check the performance of sprinkler irrigation system in the cultivation of crops such as chow-chow, broad beans, coffee and orange.

One of the beneficiary farmers from Pannaikkadu, S Siva Murugan said he has been cultivating chow-chow as the main crop on a bower, which was intercropped with coffee and orange in multi-tier cropping pattern in an acre of land. He had obtained 400kg of chow-chow in a week. This would continue for the next four months bringing him revenue of about Rs 8,000 per week, as per the current vegetable price, he said.

Another farmer, P Balasubramanian of Vazhakiri near Pannaikkadu, who cultivated broad beans, coffee, orange under multi-tier cropping pattern in one acre land, said he was very happy to get increased yield after the sprinkler irrigation system was implemented.

According to deputy director of horticulture S Raja Mohamed, farmers who implemented micro irrigation in horticultural crops got twin benefits of saving irrigation water and of substantially enhancing yield and income. A target of 50 hectare has been fixed to cover under sprinkler and drip irrigation for the horticultural crops in the block, and it can be increased according to the farmers' demand, he said.

As such over 19 farmers, are now in the process of laying sprinkler irrigation system for crops like carrot and potato in the upper pulneys, and chow-chow, coffee and mandarin orange in lower pulneys, he added.

"Drip irrigation saves 40% to 68% of water while ensuring 14% to 98% increase in the production. The irrigation system provides a suitable environment for the plants to grow as the plants' roots are wetted generously," he added.

Onion prices stay at Rs 4,300 per quintal

NASHIK: The average wholesale prices in the country's largest onion market at Lasalgaon Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) in the district remained at a high of Rs 4,300 per quintal on Tuesday, the rate which was prevailing on Friday. The onion prices are expected to be in the same range till the arrival of the fresh crop, which is expected by the first week of October. In the retail market across the city, good quality onion was sold in the range of Rs 50 to Rs 60 a kg on Tuesday.

The average wholesale onion prices in the district APMCs, which were in the range of Rs 4,200 and Rs 4,300 a quintal on Friday, rose marginally on Tuesday. The markets in the district recorded prices in the range of Rs 4,300 and Rs 4,451 a quintal in the district on Tuesday.

In Lasalgaon APMC, the average wholesale onion prices were recorded at Rs 4,300 a quintal on Tuesday. The minimum and maximum prices were recorded at Rs 1,900 and Rs 4,641 a quintal, respectively. Around 5,000 quintals of onions were auctioned in Lasalgaon APMC on Tuesday.

The average wholesale onion prices in Lasalgaon APMC touched an all-time high of Rs 4,500 a quintalon August 13. Thereafter, the market prices reduced to Rs 3,200 a quintal on August 19. But, the onion prices increased to Rs 4,100 a quintal on August 21. Since then, the average wholesale onion prices have been in the range of Rs 4,100 to Rs 4,300 a quintal at the market.

Speaking to TOI, an official from Lasalgaon APMC, said, "The average wholesale onion prices in Lasalgaon have stabilised in the range of Rs 4,100 to Rs 4,300 a quintal. The regular arrival has declined to 5,000 quintals a day. The onion prices are expected in the same range until arrival of fresh crop, which is expected to start by the first week of October 2013."

The average wholesale prices of onions in Pimpalgaon APMC were recorded at Rs 4,451 a quintal on Tuesday, against Rs 4,200 a quintal on Friday. The minimum and maximum prices were recorded at Rs 3,100 and Rs 4,744 a quintal, respectively. Around 4,950 quintals of onions were auctioned in the Pimpalgaon APMC on Tuesday.

The average wholesale prices of onions in Yeola APMC were recorded at Rs 4,300 a quintal on Tuesday, against Rs 4,250 a quintal on Friday. The minimum and maximum prices were recorded at Rs 1,500 and Rs 4,650 a quintal respectively. Around 1,500 quintals of onions were auctioned in Pimpalgaon APMC on Tuesday.