

Date : 13.09.2013



### **Amaravathi water release today**

Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on Thursday ordered release of water from the Amaravathi dam in Tirupur district following request from farmers.

In a press release, she said the water, which will benefit 47,117 acre farmlands in Tirupur and Erode districts, would be released on Friday.

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### **Madurai farmers turning tech savvy**

#### **They reap benefits of automation and modern agro methods**

Paddy yield has steadily increased over a span of four years. In 2009-10, the yield was 5,554 kg per hectare (ha). It increased to 6,367 kg/ha in 2010-11 and 6,819 kg/ha in 2011-12. Despite a severe drought, it was 5,157 kg/ha in 2012-13, a year in which many districts sought monetary relief to offset losses in the farm sector.

Though slow to embrace the system of Rice Intensification (SRI) technique introduced by the government, farmers are now enjoying the dividends.

Today, small and marginal farmers are quick to use farm implements such as power tillers, transplanters and power weeders, once topics of discussion limited to officials, manufacturers and farmers with large holdings, says S. Kanagaraj, Deputy Director (Watershed Development Agency).

By involving the village youth, 'Farmers' interest groups' (FIG) were formed in all the 13 blocks in Madurai district. The FIGs monitored and fulfilled farmers' needs. For instance, farmers in Thuyaneri near Othakadai in the Madurai East block were supplied with power tillers and transplanters but were also made accountable for their maintenance, Mr. Kanagaraj said.

Now, S. Ramaiah of Kallanthiri is able to manage his 2.5-acre paddy field with minimum farm labour. "I became familiar with the farm equipment after attending an ATMA programme. The introduction of the harvester machine has come as a big relief. Water conservation techniques are also useful. There were initial hiccups, but I managed to overcome them," he said.

Like Ramaiah, many other farmers have their own success stories, say officials.

### **Weather bulletin**

Another important scientific advancement that has reached the nook and corners of Madurai district is the easy access to rainfall data. The weather forecast can be accessed on [tawn.tnau.ac.in](http://tawn.tnau.ac.in). Established by the Agro Climate Research Centre, the agri-weather bulletin provides data on local temperature, possibility of rainfall in the next 24 hours, humidity level, and other information. The weather forecast enables farmers to plan the day's work, says Arulprakasam, an FIG member.

Presently, automatic weather stations are functioning in Vadipatti, Madurai East, Madurai West, Alanganallur and Kottampatti blocks. Soon, the other eight blocks too will have the facility, a Tamil Nadu Agricultural University official said.

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### **Water level**

The water level in Periyar dam was 123.20 feet with an inflow of 445 cusecs and a discharge of 1,372 cusecs. The water level in Vaigai dam stood at 58.01 feet with an inflow of 1,006 cusecs and a discharge of 960 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 6,279 mcft. The rainfall recorded in Periyar dam was 7.2 mm and Thekkadi recorded 2.4 mm rainfall during the last 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, PWD officials said.

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### **50 mm rain in Perambalur**

Perambalur received maximum rainfall of 50 mm in the 24 hours that ended at 8 a.m. on Thursday. Padalur got 18 mm rainfall, Chettikulam 9 mm, and Thazhuthazhai 5 mm. during the same period.

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### **Mettur level**

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 111.91 feet on Thursday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 10,515 cusecs and the discharge 4,001 cusecs.

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### **Water level**

Water level in Papanasam dam stood at 97.75 feet (the maximum level is 143 feet) on Thursday.

The dam had an inflow of 574.75 cusecs and 1,133.50 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam. The level in Manimuthar dam stood at 60.68 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 26 cusecs and a discharge of 210 cusecs.

#### **Nagercoil**

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 21.40 feet, while it was 57.60 feet in Perunchani, 8.82 feet in Chittar I, 8.92 feet in Chittar II and 31.09 feet in Mambazathuraiyaru dam.

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#### **North-interior Karnataka gets three times average rainfall**

<b>Rainfall in north-interior Karnataka (in mm) for the week September 5 to 11</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>Normal rain</b>	<b>Actual rain</b>
<b>Yadgir</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Raichur</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Koppal</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Haveri</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Gulbarga</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Gadag</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Dharwad</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Bijapur</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Bidar</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Belgaum</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Bagalkot</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>North-interior Karnataka</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65</b>

North-interior Karnataka, a traditionally arid and drought-prone meteorological subdivision, has been inundated with rain this month. According to the meteorological centre here, in the past week the area received nearly three times its normal rainfall for the period.

Between September 5 and 11, north-interior Karnataka recorded 65 mm rain, a significant departure from the average of 23 mm that the area sees normally, said the meteorological centre. Each one of the 11 districts that make up north-interior Karnataka recorded rainfall in excess of the average.

Yadgir received 140 mm last week, which was around four times the normal of 34 mm. The other districts that saw a large departure from average were Gadag (17 mm normal, 76 mm actual), Bagalkot (17 mm normal, 65 mm actual) and Kopal (21 mm normal, 78 mm actual).

Meteorological centre director B. Puttanna attributed this to a series of low pressure areas in the Bay of Bengal that moved northwest towards the peninsula. While these systems have weakened, a new upper air cyclonic circulation could bring more rain to the State, he said.

September, the final month of the southwest monsoon, happens to be one of the heaviest rainfall months for eastern Karnataka districts, he said.

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### **Cane price at Rs. 2,400 a tonne**

The Karnataka government has fixed Rs. 2,400 per tonne as advance price for sugarcane supplied to sugar factories for the 2013-14 crushing season.

Addressing presspersons here on Thursday, Minister for Sugar Prakash Hukkeri said the Karnataka Sugarcane Control Board, comprising 15 members, held its first meeting a couple of days ago and fixed the advance price at Rs. 2,400 a tonne of sugarcane supplied by growers to factories. "The price fixed is not final. It may be revised upwards after consultations with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah," he said.

The price was fixed by taking into account production, cutting and transportation cost per tonne of sugarcane with 9.5 per cent of recovery. Maharashtra factories have also been paying Rs. 2,400 per tonne of cane.

Karnataka Sugarcane Growers' Association president Kurbur Shantakumar told *The Hindu* that the factories paid Rs. 2,500 per tonne of cane, including cutting and transportation cost, last year. "We are demanding Rs. 3,500 per tonne for 2013-14," he said.

While Uttar Pradesh factories paid Rs. 2,900, the Punjab units paid Rs. 3,450 per tonne of cane in 2012-13 for 8.5 per cent recovery, he said and termed the price fixed by the board as "unscientific and anti-farmer".

Replying to a question on revival of sick sugar mills by infusing capital, he said the government has decided to release Rs. 12 crore to the Brahmavar Sugar factory to pay pending arrears to

workers and Rs. 15 crore for revival of Pandavapura sugar factory. The growers have demanded financial support of Rs. 30 crore for revival of MySugar factory located at Mandya.

### **Sugar procurement**

The Cabinet sub-committee on sugar procurement, headed by Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs T.B. Jayachandra, which met here on Thursday, has decided to buy sugar from the co-operatives at Rs. 30.75 per kg for ensuring regular supply of the commodity to BPL families through public distribution system.

The Food and Civil Supplies Department has been distributing 1 kg of sugar at Rs. 13.5 a kg per month. There 1.08 lakh BPL families in the State. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Dinesh Gundu Rao also attended the meeting.

Income accrued by the co-operative sugar factories by selling sugar at Rs. 30.75 a kg would ultimately benefit cane growers, the Minister said.

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### **1 kg sugar at Rs. 13.5 under PDS**

#### **One kg sugar per BPL card to be supplied at Rs. 13.5**

The government has decided to continue with the supply of 1 kg sugar a month to about one crore Below Poverty Line cardholders at Rs. 13.5 a kg.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told presspersons here that a Cabinet sub-committee has already cleared the proposal and the nod for the scheme is expected shortly. In all probability, the scheme will be launched from October 1, the Minister said.

The move is expected to cost about Rs. 22 crore a year to the exchequer.

#### **Decontrol**

Sugar supply under PDS was stopped a couple of months ago after decontrol of sugar by the Union government. Previously the Union government was providing sugar for supply under PDS. Mr. Rao said the Centre has agreed to partly subsidise sugar under PDS till 2015 since the State government intends to continue the scheme. It will pay Rs. 18.5 a kg for 1.08 lakh tonnes a year.

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### **Rainfall exceeds quota**

It is not yet the middle of the month, but Bangalore has exceeded its entire average September quota of rain. While September, the rainiest month of the southwest monsoon, sees Bangalore

receiving an average 241 mm, the rainfall recorded between September 1 and now is 271 mm, said B. Puttanna, director of the meteorological centre.

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### Dharwad sets record in cotton sowing



*Sowing of cotton has taken place on 54,000 hectares of land, against the targeted area of 36,000 hectares, in Dharwad.— file photo*

There has been record cotton sowing in the district with sowing taking place on 54,000 hectares against the targeted area of 36,000 hectare, said S. M. Gadad, joint director, Agriculture Department.

Submitting the progress report on sowing at the Karnataka Development Programmes (KDP) meeting here on Wednesday, Mr. Gadag said the farmers showed more interest for the cotton crop mainly due to uncertain rains. Similarly, soya bean too had been sowed on 34,000 hectares. Department of Agriculture had taken pest control measures for both these crops, he said. However, low sowing has taken place in case of green gram and jowar. The district had so far received 509 mm of rains against the normal rainfall of 537 mm during this period, he said.

### Dengue

Officials of the Department of Health and Family Welfare said 77 dengue and two chikungunya cases have been reported in the district so far.

Meanwhile, the zilla panchayat engineering section came under the scanner for their failure to implement several works.

The officials of the cell failed to provide progress report of the works for the present and previous fiscal. Moreover, they did not take steps to supply water even as the Hubli Electricity Supply Company (Hescom) provided power connection for seven drinking water supply works.

The district social welfare officer Ashok Chalawadi and the deputy director of Women and Child Development Trishala Appannavar accused the Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Corporation of not taking up many works despite the government releasing funds.

The zilla panchayat president in-charge Fakirappa Jakkannavar and the chief executive officer (CEO) P. A. Meghannvar warned the Corporation officials of taking disciplinary action if they fail to change their style of working.

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### Agriculture award

The deadline for the competition organised by the Agriculture Department for farmers that revolves around cultivation of rice during the monsoons has been deferred to September 30. The awards will be given to best farmers for the year 2013-14 at taluk, district and state levels, said a release. Applications should be sent to the Taluk Assistant Agriculture before September 30, instead of the earlier deadline of August 31.

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### NABARD commissions two lift irrigation schemes in Siruguppa



*G.R. Chintal, Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, switching on the motor for commissioning the lift irrigation scheme in Siruguppa on Thursday.*

G.R. Chintal, Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), has formally commissioned two lift irrigation schemes in Siruguppa taluk.

The two schemes, financed by the Siruguppa Primary Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (PCARD) Bank, will irrigate over 350 acres of land at the tail-end, forming a part of the Tungabhadra command area. Mr. Chintal, while commending the bank for its initiative to provide funds to farmers' groups, to bring vast patches of land under as many as 12 lift irrigation schemes, hoped that the bank would continue to extend financial assistance for the

benefit of farmers. "Siruguppa is blessed with two rivers, Tungabhadra and Vedavati. This is in addition to the irrigation cover provided by the Tungabhadra canals. The bank's initiative to provide top priority to tap water resources for the farmers' economic development is laudable. The NABARD would extend its full cooperation by extending all help for the success of such lift irrigation schemes," he said.

### **Technology**

Mr. Chintal called upon farmers to adopt the Shri System among other modern techniques, including the use of mechanised paddy transplanters, to increase yield. "With the rupee value depreciating, it was time for farmers to adopt advancement in agricultural practices to increase yield. Adopting the Shri System in paddy cultivation would help harvest more," he said. Mr. Chintal also wanted the PCARD bank to organise study and exposure trips for farmers to see for themselves the benefits being reaped by their counterparts who had adopted latest techniques, besides organising demonstration plots in the taluk. K. Shadakshari, president, Karnataka State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (KASCARD), also spoke. B.M. Nagaraj, Siruguppa MLA, presided.

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### **Rains bring respite to Chittoor farmers**

Sudden rains in the tail-end Chittoor district due to depression in Bay of Bengal brought cheer to the farmers and agriculture department officials, while crop damage was limited to a couple of thousand acres, death of a few cattle and breach of several irrigation tanks.

Officials of the district planning wing, agriculture and irrigation departments expected that the rains would continue for the next three to four days, but the depression's impact lasted only a day, recording below normal rainfall. While Tirupati received 106 mm of rain, the maximum, other areas were Perumallapalli (100 mm); Tamballapalli (92 mm); Satyavedu and Palamaneru (77 mm); Arogyavaram (75 mm); Pakala (65 mm); Chittoor (53 mm); and Tirumala (27 mm). The estimated average rainfall in the district for September is 319.4 mm, but the sudden rains resulted in an excess of 70mm in the first ten days of the month.

In the western mandals, tanks were breached at Nadimicharla, Kona and Gudibanda villages. Four houses reportedly collapsed at Kalakada mandal, while about 30 cattle perished, and standing crops of paddy and vegetables were submerged in about 700 acres. In B. Kothakota mandal of Madanapalle division, the Aleru rivulet witnessed heavy inflows, which is said to be the first time in two decades. In Palamaner, sericulture farmers suffered considerable damage



to their crops. In Puttur revenue division, several tanks received satisfactory inflows. The farmers expressed hope that the paddy crop would sustain in the Rabi season. However, they deplored that they lacked the guidance of the officials of the agriculture, veterinary, irrigation departments in view of the ongoing Samaikhyandra agitation in the district.

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### **Mushroom cultivation course**

Centre for Entrepreneurship Development in association with Ni-MSME is conducting a one-month entrepreneurship and skill development programme in mushroom cultivation at the centre premises in ALEAP Industrial Estate, Kukatpally. Persons aged above 18 years are eligible. For details, contact: 9396957061/9640206056.

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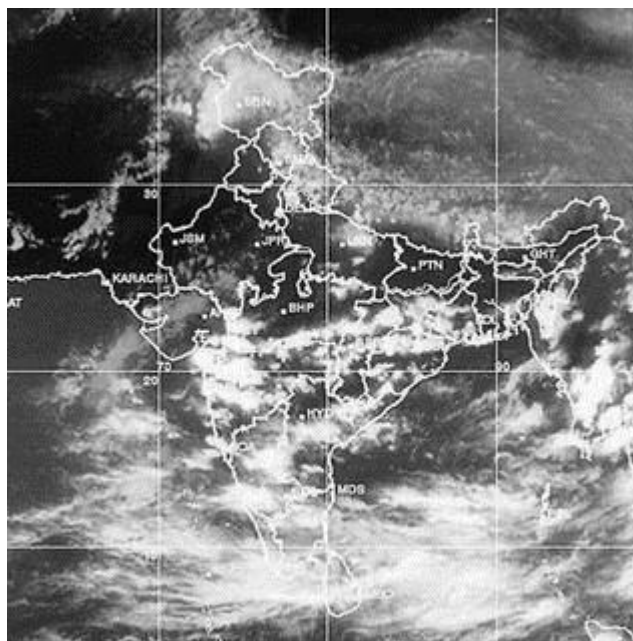
### **Progressive farmers launch cooperative society**

Some progressive farmers and persons having concern over the interests of peasant community in the district on Thursday launched a cooperative society named 'Bindu', with an intention to empower the farming community. The society, though registered under the MACS Act, will function with a non-profit motive, unlike the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS), IDCMS director and a farmer B. Gopi said, adding that it will work as a single window for supply of all necessary crop inputs, equipment and expert suggestions to farmers at free of cost. Giving details of the new concept, Mr. Gopi said that the progressive farmers in the district were very much worried about the falling standards of cooperative societies. "This was what prompted us to form a society like Bindu which would cater to farmers' need from crop inputs to remunerative price for the produce," he said. Officials from agriculture and allied departments, cooperative sector, banks, fertiliser companies were invited to take part in the inaugural meeting, he said adding that the new society would also supply pesticides and fertilisers to farmers before the beginning of cropping season. The society also felicitated Gangadhar Rao Patwari, a votary of the cooperative movement.

***The society will provide pesticides, fertilizers, equipment and expert suggestions to farmers free of cost***

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## weather



*INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on September 12th.*

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	38	27	0	518
New Delhi (Sfd)	37	26	0	787
Chandigarh	34	26	0	821
Hissar	38	24	0	507
Bhuntar	33	19	1	404
Shimla	21	15	15	827
Jammu	32	24	5	1250
Srinagar	29	17	0	230
Amritsar	35	25	0	759
Patiala	35	25	0	722
Jaipur	37	26	0	661
Udaipur	35	23	0	656
Allahabad	35	26	1	944
Lucknow	34	23	0	726
Varanasi	35	26	0	741
Dehradun	29	21	3	2771
Agartala	33	25	3	820
Ahmedabad	37	26	0	772
Bangalore	26	20	40	612
Bhubaneshwar	34	26	0	752
Bhopal	35	24	0	1116
Chennai	27	23	17	607

Guwahati	35	24	1	736
Hyderabad	31	22	0	594
Kolkata	33	26	2	1534
Mumbai	31	25	25	2103
Nagpur	35	24	0	1328
Patna	36	27	0	554
Pune	31	21	10	635
Thiruvananthapuram	30	23	6	990
Imphal	29	21	0	962
Shillong	22	17	19	879

*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**

The withdrawal line of Southwest Monsoon continues to pass through Sriganganagar, Bikaner and Barmer. The conditions are becoming favorable for further withdrawal of southwest-monsoon from some parts of Punjab, Haryana and some more parts of Rajasthan during next 48 hrs.

**Rainfall:** Rain/thundershowers have occurred at a few places over Uttarakhand and at isolated places over Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, east Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Weather was mainly dry over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm are: (2 cm and above) HARYANA: Morni 4 and Kalka and Chhachhrauli 2 each, HIMACHAL PRADESH: Jogindernagar 3 and Amb, Palampur, Gohar, Nahan and Rajgarh 2 each, JAMMU AND KASHMIR: Katra 5, EAST RAJASTHAN: Kanva 2, EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Machhlishahar 7, Akberpur 6, Chhatnag and Bahraich 4 each, Jaunpur and Mirzapur 3 each and Kakrahi 2, WEST UTTAR RADESH: Bareilly 2 and UTTARAKHAND: Chamoli, Karanprayag and Haldwani 2 each.

**FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 14th SEPTEMBER 2013 :** Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and east Uttar Pradesh. Weather would be mainly dry over rest of the region.

**FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 14th SEPTEMBER 2013:** Partly cloudy sky. Light rain/thundershowers could occur in some areas.

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# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

## Poultry industry in shambles due to high cost of feed

The abnormally high prices of maize and soybean, which are used as poultry feed, has pushed the poultry industry in the state into deep crisis. Poultry feed accounts for about 70 per cent of the total cost of production of chicken.

The increase in the minimum support price(MSP) of maize from Rs 980 to Rs 1,175 a quintal and of soybean from Rs 2,250 to Rs 2,500 of soybean has overburdened the poultry industry which is already in deep trouble. According to experts, the prices of soybean and maize may further increase in the coming months and, if not controlled, will result in a negative growth for the poultry industry.

“For the last two years the poultry sector has been facing severe crisis due to abnormal increase in the prices of feed ingredients (mainly maize and soya meal) and led to an increase in the cost of production, says AP Poultry Federation president D Sudhakar. The hike in the MSP of soybean and maize will translate into abnormal increase in the cost of these products in the open market, resulting in an increase in the input cost of the poultry produce, he cautioned.

Due to increase in the prices of poultry feed the prices of chicken have gone up drastically. Currently, live bird costs between Rs 100 and 120 a kg and the skinless between Rs 185 and 195 in the retail market. Last year the price of live bird was as low as Rs 55 a kg. Usually, the prices of chicken keep changing every day but in the last few months the prices are not coming down, says Shajid Ali of Al-Saba Poultry Centre situated at the Nampally wholesale market.

“The soybean producers are taking advantage of the fall in the value of rupee and are exporting it in large quantities as their profit margin has increased to 17 percent,” he claimed.

To tide over the crisis, breeders want the government to ban forward trading in maize and soybean immediately, he said. India is one of the major exporters of soya meal (soybean oil cake) to Asian countries. Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia and China are some of the major importers of soya meal from India. India is the third largest importer of soya oil in the world.

“We have requested the government not to further increase the MSP of soybean and maize, so that the cost of production does not increase further,” he said.

More than 14,000 poultry breeders and 95 hatcheries across the state are in doldrums due to rise in the prices of poultry feeds. Andhra Pradesh produces about 3.5 crore broiler chicken every month but with the industry going through a rough patch, the production could decline.

Telangana is the worst-hit with 60 per cent of the breeders belonging to the region. Medak district has 1,387 breeders, Ranga Reddy 826, Nalgonda 1,140, Mahbubnagar 1,140, Chittoor 1,191, West Godavari 658 and Krishna district has 772 breeders.

With no sign of the ongoing agitation against the state’s bifurcation in the Seemandhra region dying down, poultry farmers are getting agitated as it is feared that the transportation of birds will be affected in the coming days due to agitation, he said.

Production of soybean in India at present is restricted mainly to Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. It is also grown on a small scale in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Delhi. In the state, sowing of soybean is mainly confined to Nizamabad and Adilabad.

Usually, one third of the constituents in poultry feed is maize. Karimnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Mahbubnagar, Guntur, Warangal and West Godavari contribute 80 per cent of the total maize. .

AP is 3rd biggest chicken producer

Andhra Pradesh accounts for production of 3.5 crore live birds every month, which is one-third of the country’s production, apart from six crore eggs a day. In revenue terms, poultry’s contribution to the state’s annual GDP is estimated at Rs 20,000 crore with employment close to 20 lakh people.

### **Women SHGs roped in to boost egg output**

In the wake of huge gap between demand and supply of eggs, the State Government on Wednesday decided to pilot a model project plan in 10 select blocks involving women self-help groups (SHGs) to increase egg production.

The model project, prepared jointly by the departments of Panchayati Raj and Fisheries & Animal Resource Development (FARD), will be piloted under the World Bank-aided Targeted Rural Initiatives for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure (TRIPTI) programme.

The major input cost for the pilot project will be resourced from TRIPTI fund. Women SHGs will be encouraged to develop backyard poultry farm with semi-intensive system of 20 birds per individual to reduce capital cost.

TRIPTI will facilitate institutional and capacity building, productive community infrastructure, working capital, marketing of produce and monitoring of the activity.

The Department of F&ARD will take the lead in conceptualising the project, providing technical guidance and hand holding support during implementation, said a senior officer after a high-level meeting at the Secretariat where the model plan was reviewed. The meeting was chaired by Chief Secretary J K Mohapatra.

The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and mid-day-meal (MDM) programme will be linked up with the Women SHGs involved in layer farming for assured marketing support, the officer said.

According to reports, egg production in the State has increased from 1,424.6 millions in 2007 to 2,300 millions in 2012. However, there is a huge gap between the daily demand and the domestic production.

While the captive requirement of eggs per day is around 64 lakhs, the current domestic production is only 45 lakhs. Around 15 lakh eggs per day are required for ICDS centres and 13 lakhs for MDM programmes.

The meeting also discussed utilisation of funds under MGNREGA for construction of poultry sheds. The Panchayati Raj department was asked to work out details as per the procedure and rules.

Emphasising on importance of layers poultry as a livelihood activity, Mohapatra has directed the department to develop another model for the Women SHGs in non-TRIPTI districts.

After a series of discussion with TRIPTI authorities, it was decided to pilot the project in 10 blocks of three districts of Angul, Bhadrak and Jagatsinghpur. The identified blocks are Chendipada, Angul Sadar, Angul, Bhadrak Sadar, Basudevpur, Chandbali, Tihidi, Erasama, Tirtol, Balikuda and Kujang.

Secretaries of FARD, Women and Child Development, School and Mass Education and other senior officers of these departments were present.

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# hindustantimes.com

## Weather

Chennai

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Friday, Sep 13

Max    Min

29° | 24°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 79

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:57

Sunset: 06:11

Barometer: 1008

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Saturday, Sep 14

Max    Min

31° | 23°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday  
Sep 15



31° | 24°

Cloudy

Monday  
Sep 16



31° | 23°

Overcast

Tuesday  
Sep 17



32° | 24°

Overcast

Wednesday  
Sep 18



32° | 24°

Overcast

Thursday  
Sep 19



32° | 23°

Overcast

### Airport Weather

Chennai

Chennai

Rain: 0

Humidity: 79

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:57

Sunset: 06:11

Barometer: 1008



# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

## KV Thomas asks sugar mills to look at exports to clear cane dues



*Sugar mills should focus on exports to clear payment of dues to cane farmers as output of the sweetener is likely to exceed domestic demand, Thomas said.*

NEW DELHI: Sugar mills should focus on exports to clear payment of dues to cane farmers as the country's output of the sweetener is likely to exceed domestic demand for the fourth consecutive marketing year, Food Minister K V Thomas said today.

Exports will help mills to clear sugarcane arrears to farmers and also lead to foreign exchange earnings, he said, while acknowledging the industry for ensuring steady supply of sugar at almost stable prices after decontrol.

"It is indeed a matter of pride that we are looking at a comfortable sugar position for the fourth year in a row," Thomas said at the AGM of the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories (NFCSF).

India's sugar production is estimated at 25 million tonnes in the 2012-13 marketing year (October-September) as against domestic consumption of 22-23 million tonnes. Industry has pegged 2013-14 output at 23.7 million tonnes and the figure may be revised upwards on better monsoon.

"Currently, exports of sugar are under the open general license, subject to registration with DGFT (under the Commerce Ministry). With the present exchange rate, I am sure that some



players in the industry would look at the option of export, which will also help us to earn some precious foreign exchange," he observed.

As of July 31, sugar mills owed cane farmers about Rs 3,000 crore, mostly by mills in Uttar Pradesh, which have incurred a loss of about Rs 3,000 crore in the 2012-13 marketing year due to higher cost of production.

On the industry's demand to raise import duty from the existing 15 per cent, Thomas said imports are not viable at the current exchange rate.

Thomas asked the mills to help meet the requirements of ration shops in states, especially those that do not produce sugar, by offering them attractive prices and logistics support.

The minister said the Centre has already asked sugarcane producing states to consider the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee related to cane area reservation and a revenue sharing formula between farmers and mills.

"The government of Karnataka, I believe, has already taken positive steps in this direction. I would request the industry to follow up with the state governments concerned for promoting rational policies, which will make the industry competitive while sharing the gains with sugarcane farmers," Thomas said.

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### **MMTC, PEC float wheat export tenders: Statements**

NEW DELHI: Country's state-run trading companies MMTC LtdBSE 1.41 % and PECHave offered a total of 100,000 tonnes of wheat for exports from two different coasts, as the government attempts to cut down bulging stocks at its warehouses.

MMTC Ltd has floated a global wheat export tender for 60,000 tonnes from government warehouses on the east coast, while PEC has offered 40,000 tonnes for sales from the country's west coast, separate statements issued by the two companies showed on Thursday.

Both the tenders will close on Oct. 4 and the shipments will take place between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15, the companies said in their separate statements.

Earlier, State Trading Corp. floated a similar export tender offering 60,000 tonnes of the grain on the west coast.

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### CCEA okays supply of additional 5 MT foodgrain to BPL families



*CCEA today cleared a proposal to allocate additional 5 mn tonnes of foodgrain to BPL families this fiscal, entailing a subsidy of about Rs 9,471 crore*

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today cleared a proposal to allocate additional 5 million tonnes of foodgrain to BPL families this fiscal, entailing a subsidy of about Rs 9,471 crore.

"The proposal on allocation of additional five million tonnes of foodgrain to BPL (below poverty line) category for the 2013-14 fiscal has been approved," Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tiwari told reporters after the CCEA meeting here.

There are 6.52 crore BPL families in the country. The additional foodgrain would be supplied at subsidised rate for BPL families and would cost the government Rs 9,471.22 crore.

This additional allocation will remain valid for lifting up to March 31, 2014, or till the National Food Security Ordinance is implemented in the respective states, an official statement said.

Delhi, Uttarkhand and Haryana have announced implementation of the new food law, which aims to provide legal right over subsidised foodgrain.

Considering the sufficient availability of stock of foodgrain in the central pool and requests received from states, the government has been allocating additional quantity of rice and wheat to BPL families since 2010-11.

As of September 1, foodgrain stock in the government godowns is around 59 million tonnes (MT), which includes 38.3 MT of wheat and 20.5 MT of rice.

For APL families, the government had in May allocated 6 MT of extra foodgrains for this fiscal. In June, it had approved the sale of 10.5 MT of foodgrains in the open market to check rising prices.

The government supplies rice and wheat at subsidised rates of Rs 5.65 per kg and Rs 4.15 per kg, respectively, to BPL families.

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### India sets out to sell more wheat but keeps price high



*India started another round of tenders to sell wheat on Thursday after a gap of three months as it tries to sell 2 million tonnes to cut bulging stocks*

NEW DELHI: India started another round of tenders to sell wheat on Thursday after a gap of three months as it tries to sell 2 million tonnes to cut bulging stocks.

But its stubborn refusal to move from a minimum price of \$300 per tonne set for earlier exports

which failed to reach their target of 4.5 million tonnes is likely to keep interest subdued.

India, keen to boost any exports in order to reduce a gaping current account deficit and support the rupee, which has lost 16 percent in value between from June to September, is reluctant to sell its wheat abroad below the level set for domestic buyers.

It said on Wednesday it had set a target of earning \$600 million from the extra quantity allowed to be shipped out by the end of the current fiscal on March 31.

On Thursday, the three state trading companies - State State Trading Corp., MMTC and PEC - issued tenders for wheat exports totalling 160,000 tonnes, the first such offers since June.

"It appears the government wants to test the market with the high floor export price of \$300 per tonne against the backdrop of the weak value of the Indian rupee," said Tejinder Narang, a New Delhi based commodity analyst.

Narang said the floor export price is about \$60 per tonne higher than supplies from Black Sea origins, making the Indian supplies unattractive to prospective global buyers.

India last year had allowed 4.5 million tonnes of wheat for exports to be sold by the three state run companies until June, 2013. Out of that, 4.2 million tonnes was sold, earning \$1.4 billion for the government.

India's wheat production is about 93 million tonnes in 2013 and demand is about 76 million tonnes. The government uses stocks to supply subsidised grains to the poor and for a buffer against years of drought and poor harvests.

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## CONCRETE STEPS TAKEN FOR WELFARE OF FARMERS

**Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the State Government has taken a number of decisions to make agriculture profitable during last 9 years.**

State Government has provided Rs 9000 crore loans to 30 lakh farmers at zero per cent interest rate during year 2012. During earlier regime, crop loans were given at the rate of 15 to 16 per cent interest. The present State Government reduced it to 7 per cent in year 2003, 5 per cent in 2008, 3 per cent in 2010 and zero per cent in year 2011 for purchasing fertilisers and seeds due to which lakhs of farmers are benefiting. Due to extension of crop loans to farmers at zero per cent interest rate, percentage of recovery of loans in the cooperative sector has also increased. It rose to 78.04 per cent in year 2012. Under another significant decision in the cooperative sector, over 45 lakh farmers have been provided Kisan Credit Cards. Chouhan held direct dialogue for the first time in Madhya Pradesh at Kisan Panchayat on August 30, 2006 and sought suggestions from them to chalk out future strategies. He changed name of Agriculture Department to Farmers' Welfare & Agriculture Development Department. For ensuring farmers' welfare, the State Government took a number of decisions and no new tax was imposed on agricultural implements. Besides, farmers were provided facility to purchase sprinklers, drip irrigation and other implements from open market. For providing benefit of latest agriculture research and studies, the government is changing existing norms for opening agriculture and veterinary colleges with the help of private sector. Processing units have been opened in a number of places on the basis of classification of crops, fruits, vegetables, organic crops etc. Subsidy worth 40 per cent of the cost upto a maximum of Rs 80,000 each is being given while SC, ST farmers are being provided 75 per cent subsidy upto a maximum of Rs one lakh for Balram Talabs. For purchasing bullock carts and pair of oxen, marginal SC, ST farmers with upto 2 hectare arable land are being provided 50 per cent subsidy on the cost or Rs 5000, whichever is less. Electronic weighing machines have been installed at Mandis in the state to facilitate farmers. As per announcements made at Kisan Panchayat, State Farmers' Welfare Commission has been constituted. Similarly, in pursuance to announcement made at Kisan Mahapanchayat of February 20, 2008, the State Government started giving Rs 100 per quintal

bonus on procurement of wheat in addition to the support price announced by the Union Government.

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## Business Standard

Chana up 1.8% on better spot demand

**The commodity for delivery in October gained 1.57%**



Chana prices rose by Rs 56 to Rs 3,060 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions on higher demand in the spot market.

At the National Commodity Derivatives Exchange, chana for September contract rose by Rs 56, or 1.86%, to Rs 3,060 per quintal, with an open interest of 10,090 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in October gained Rs 49, or 1.57%, to Rs 3,159 per quintal, with an open interest of 1,51,490 lots.

Traders said speculators increasing their holdings on hopes of rise in spot market demand against restricted arrivals mainly pushed up chana prices in futures.

They said fresh enquiries from millers at lower levels against fall in supply from the producing regions of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh further supported the uptrend.

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### Mustardseed up 1.7% on short covering

#### **The commodity for January climbed up by 1.53%**



Mustardseed prices improved by Rs 61 to Rs 3,501 per quintal in futures trade today on revival of buying driven by firm spot markets sentiment.

Marketmen said apart from low levels buying, higher millers demand against restricted supply mainly pushed up the prices.

They said strong demand from vanaspati and other edible oil mills also attracted traders to raise holdings.

At the National Commodity and derivatives Exchange, mustardseed for current September contract rose by Rs 61, or 1.77%, to Rs 3,501 per quintal, in an open interest of 5,730 lots.

The commodity for January climbed up by Rs 55, or 1.53%, to Rs 3,659 per quintal with an open interest of 380 lots.

Most active October month too hardened by Rs 23, or 0.65%, to Rs 3,543 per quintal, having an open interest of 50,400 lots.

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Potato down 0.7% on less demand

**Commodity for delivery in March slipped by 0.31%**



Potato prices fell by 0.74% to Rs 795 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators offloaded their positions driven by subdued demand in the spot market.

Sentiment weakened further adequate stocks amid fresh supplies from producing regions.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for September delivery fell by Rs 6, or 0.74%, to Rs 795 per quintal, with a business volume of 12 lots.

Potato for delivery in March slipped by Rs 2.60, or 0.31%, to Rs 810.10 per quintal, with a trading volume of 8 lots.

Marketmen said fall in potato prices was mostly due to offloading of positions by speculators, driven by subdued demand in the spot market against fresh supplies.

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### Cardamom up 0.3% on spot demand

#### **Tight stocks, lower arrivals from producing regions influenced prices**



Cardamom prices rose by 0.38% to Rs 779.20 per kg in futures trade today as traders enlarged their commitments, supported by a pick-up in export and domestic demand.

Besides, tight stocks position in the spot market following lower arrivals from producing regions also influenced prices, traders said.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in October rose by Rs 3, or 0.38%, to Rs 779.20 per kg, with a business turnover of 431 lots.

Similarly, cardamom for delivery in November edged up by Rs 2.20, or 0.31%, to Rs 692 per kg in 38 lots.

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### Crude palm oil rises 0.3% on spot demand

#### **Firming trend in overseas markets supported the oil prices in futures trade**



Crude palm oil prices rose 0.37% to Rs 529.10 per 10 kg in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions amid rising demand in the spot markets amid low stocks.

Besides, a firming trend in overseas markets also supported the oil prices in futures trade.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for October delivery rose by Rs 2, or 0.37%, to Rs 529.10 per 10 kg, with a trading volume of 19 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in September moved up by Rs 1.70, or 0.32%, to Rs 531.90 per 10 kg, with a business turnover of 100 lots.

Analysts said fresh positions created by speculators driven by rising spot demand against tight stocks and a firming trend overseas, led to a rise in crude palm oil prices at futures market.

In Malaysia, palm oil advanced as much as 0.90% to USD 721 a tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange.

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# THE HINDU Business Line

## Spot rubber turns weak

Kottayam, Sept. 12:

Rubber prices turned weak on Thursday.

On the spot, the commodity lost ground on buyer resistance, following the moderate declines in the domestic and international futures. The TOCOM rubber futures fell mainly as the yen gained strength against the dollar.

The trend was mixed while ISNR 20 and latex finished unchanged on comparatively better demand.

Overall volumes were low.

Sheet rubber moved down to Rs 186.50 (Rs 187.50) a kg, according to traders.

The grade closed weak at Rs 187 (Rs 187.50), at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

September futures weakened to Rs 186.40 (Rs 188.21), October to Rs 182.70 (Rs 185.44), November to Rs 182 (Rs 185.75) and December to Rs 184.10 (Rs 187.58) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) dropped to Rs 168.85 (Rs 172.81) at Bangkok. September futures closed at ¥260 (Rs 166.88) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 186.50 (187.50); RSS-5: 182 (183); Ungraded: 176 (177); ISNR 20: 172 (172) and Latex 60%: 133 (133).

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## No major change in cotton sowing area but yield may rise

**Stagnating area, falling yield\***



Year	Area	Production	Yield
2008-09	94.06	290	524
2009-10	103.10	305	503
2010-11	111.42	325	496
2011-12	121.78	353	493
2012-13*	116.14	334	489

#Area in lakh hectares, production in lakh bales of 170 kg each, yield in kg/hectares; \*Estimate  
Source: Cotton Advisory Board

Hyderabad/Chennai, Sept. 12:

Cotton could spin a different story this season starting October with a higher yield expected though there is no major change in coverage. Factors such as exports and prices could, in fact, determine the route map for next year.

The cotton scenario is beginning to undergo changes with China switching its strategy by importing more hosiery yarn. But Beijing will continue to import cotton as it is still the world's biggest spinner.

As regards the crop status, with bountiful rains and favourable weather across all the growing areas, a cotton crop higher than last year is likely this season.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the area under cotton so far is marginally down at 113.16 lakh hectares (lha) against 113.46 lha during the same period a year ago.

Production could rise at least 10 per cent and the Cotton Association of India has already pegged it at 372 lakh bales (of 170 kg each).

"We have had good rains in all the cotton growing States. Though there is a decline in area by 2-3 per cent in States such as Maharashtra, the overall prospect for cotton seems good," said S.P. Oswal, Chairman and Managing Director of Vardhaman.

"Plantings are maintained at the same level as last year. But the timely monsoon showers will ensure a better yield," said A. Ramani, an industry analyst. There could, however, be some problems in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra due to excess rainfall.

"We will have a good crop compared with last year. Plantings are on in some States, so we have not made any estimate," said D.K. Nair, Secretary-General of Confederation of Indian Textiles Industry (CITI).

"Production may decline in Maharashtra as farmers have reportedly shifted to other profitable crops such as soyabean.

“However, rise in acreage in Gujarat and better rainfall may lead to overall increase in production in this year,” said Chowda Reddy, Senior Research Analyst (agri commodities) of JRG securities.

Ramesh Viswanathan, Chief Operating Officer of Nuziveedu Seeds, said cotton would have lost about 5-6 per cent of the sown crop area this year. The monsoon has been good in the cotton growing areas.

In such a scenario, if the yield is good, it will compensate the lower sowing.

He, however, said that more clarity on yield would be known only after two months.

Viswanathan said other crops have cut into cotton area.

“In the North, the area for guar has gone up. In Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, soyabean has gained. Groundnut area has gone up in Gujarat,” he said.

Overall, the maize acreage has grown increased by 8-9 per cent. Guar could have gone up 10-15 per cent, all gaining at cotton’s cost.

In Andhra Pradesh, the area under cotton is likely to cross the 20-lha-mark. The State, which grew cotton on a record 22 lha last year, was expecting the acreage to drop to the normal level of 16-18 lha.

The area, however, increased sharply following good rains in the Telangana region, which grows maximum cotton.

In Maharashtra, the coverage has slipped by two lha compared with last year, followed by Gujarat which witnessed a dip of one lha. On the other hand, Haryana and Rajasthan have reported a higher acreage of two lha, while Punjab’s sowing has stayed put at the last year’s levels of 5.5 lha. Trade sources put production in Gujarat at 115 lakh bales.

Abundant stocks of seed have come in handy for the farmers.

The seed supply chain has carried over eight crore packets (of 450 gm each) at the beginning of the season against the estimated demand of four crore packets.

Though cotton prices are currently near three-year high, they could drop once the new arrivals begin flowing into the market.

“Our cotton is price higher than comparable variety in the global market. Our Shankar-6 is quoted at 97-98 cents a lb against 88-92 for a similar international variety,” said Ramani.

Prices have zoomed due to low carry-forward stocks and export demand.

“Our prices are usually higher at this point of time since arrivals are over. At the same time, transactions will also be low since most mills would have completed their purchases,” said Nair.

“This year, the new crop could fetch lower price than last year at the beginning,” said the CITI official.

Chowda Reddy said that prices are likely to come under pressure once harvesting starts in October and could be low during peak arrivals in January-February.

Exports hold the key to the price this season and the crop’s future.

“We will have to wait to see what the Chinese policy is towards cotton export,” said Nair.

“China still needs good quantity of cotton as it has huge spinning capacity. The only problem for importers there is the 14 per cent value-added tax on cotton imports,” said Ramani.

Still, cotton exports could match quantity of this season that ends this month. Cotton shipments have been estimated at 70 lakh bales against 128.1 lakh bales last year.

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### Soya arrivals may crush mustard, oil



Indore, Sept. 12:

Mustard oil ruled mixed on Thursday.

In Indore and Neemuch *mandis* in Madhya Pradesh, mustard oil ruled flat Rs 645 and Rs 640 respectively.

Compared with last week, mustard oil is lower by Rs 11 in Indore. Besides subdued demand, decline in dollar and fall in prices of imported oil have also contributed to sluggish trend in mustard oil.

With arrivals of new soyabean expected to gather pace, they will add to bearish sentiment in mustard and its oil in the coming days, said a trader.

Mustard, on the other hand, ruled steady amid rise in arrivals and subdued demand. In Indore mandis, mustard was quoted at Rs 4,100-4,200 a quintal (Rs 100 up from last week), while *raida* ruled at Rs 3,100-Rs 3,200 a quintal as arrival of mustard in Madhya Pradesh increased.

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### Rubber output may be lower than initial estimate

Kottayam, Sept 12:

Natural rubber production during the current fiscal (2013-2014) is likely to be lower than initial estimates, said Ms Sheela Thomas, Chairman, Rubber Board.

She was delivering the presidential address at the 172nd meeting of the Rubber Board held at Kottayam.

rain impact

Intensive rain and the widespread incidence of abnormal leaf fall are the reasons for decline in production.

However, the increase in tapped area from 5,04,000 hectares (ha) in 2012-2013 to 5,18,000 ha in 2013-14 and the higher level of moisture content in the soil may increase the production in the coming months.

The projected closing stock of rubber in 2013 -14 is 2,70,000 tonnes, said the Chairman.

Domestic production during April - August 2013 is 2,65,000 tonnes.

Consumption during this period was 4,08,805 tonnes.

Consumption for 2013-14 is projected at 9,45,000 tonnes. Imports and exports in April-August 2013 were 1,28,465 and 2,319 tonnes, respectively.

According to the report from the International Rubber Study Group, the world production of rubber during April to August declined by 0.9 per cent owing mainly to adverse weather conditions.

growth in consumption

The growth in rubber consumption during the period was minimal at 1.1 per cent.

World economy is beset with challenges of economic recession and geopolitical concerns.

The present situation indicates that the market is likely to remain volatile, the Chairman said.

The Board evaluated the activities since the last meeting in Guwahati in April.

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## Millers demand hike in sugar import duty to 30%



New Delhi, Sept 12:

Ahead of the new crushing season, sugar millers have urged the Government to subsidise exports of the sweetener, while seeking a hike in import duty to 30 per cent on both white and raw sugar.

The millers are reeling under the impact of high cane costs and arrears.

Addressing the 54<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Ltd (NFCSFL), its President Kallappa Awade said the surplus sugar output in 2012-13 in both domestic and global markets had impacted prices.

Also, the import of raw and white sugar at nominal duty had adversely affected cane payments.

“The cane arrears stood at Rs 4,783 crore as on July 31. We earnestly urge you to impose at least 30 per cent import duty on white and raw sugar. Also, we request you to permit export subsidy on sugar to save the farmers and the industry,” Awade said.

Sugar imports currently attract a duty of 15 per cent.

The country’s sugar output will exceed 25 million tonnes in the sugar year 2012-13 ending September. The carry-over stock at the beginning of next season is expected to be 9.8 million tonnes.

Though the cane area for the 2013-14 season is expected to be lower by 6.4 per cent at 51.44 lakh ha against 55.08 lakh ha in 2012-13, the output in the season ahead is estimated at around 23.5 million tonnes, Awade said.

“Considering the domestic consumption of 23 mt, India will have a carryover stock of 9.8 mt.

About four million tonnes can be easily exported in 2013-14,” Awade said.



Food Minister K.V. Thomas, said the country was looking at a comfortable sugar position for the fourth year in a row.

Responding to the millers request on exports, Thomas said “in principle there can be no objection as it will help faster clearance of cane price arrears.”

Currently, sugar exports are under open general licence, subject to registration with the Director General of Foreign Trade.

Stating that the Government policies, including the one for exports were aimed at balancing the interest of consumers, farmers and the industry, Thomas assured millers that “if and when sugar policy is reviewed, we shall be fair to all stakeholders”.

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### Sept pepper contracts find no takers



Kochi, Sept 12:

Pepper futures continued to decline on limited activities, while the no trading took place in September contract that will mature next week due to lack of buyers, according to market sources.

According to the NMCE sources, stocks have arrived in warehouses and clients have started taking the deliveries.

Market sources said that 11 lots of pepper cleared by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India authorities recently were available for sale at competitive price of Rs 435 a kg. But, unconfirmed reports said that buyers are apprehensive to make purchases as they will have to provide details of the buyers. However, some expert processors doing multi-origin operations in need of some pepper of 550 GL and above, were said to be ready to buy, market sources told *Business Line*.

Surprisingly, some of the processors who normally sell to exporters and inter-State dealers were seen buying. This indicates tight supply scenario, they said.

The entire domestic demand is met directly from Karnataka at Rs 400 a kg delivered anywhere in the country.

On the spot, 32 tonnes of farm grade pepper arrived and 38 tonnes were traded. Pepper from the plains was sold at Rs 409 a kg, while that from other regions was traded at Rs 415 a kg based on the quality and the area of production, they said.

On the NMCE, September contracts did not open. October and November contracts decreased by Rs 25 and Rs 118 a quintal, respectively to Rs 44,200 and Rs 44,325 a quintal.

Total open interest declined by 8 tonnes to 36 tonnes. Total turnover fell by 41 tonnes to 14 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 was \$7,150 a tonne (c&f) Europe and \$7,400 a tonne (c&f) for the US and remained competitive.

But, exporters were not in a position to make any commitments because of the fluctuation in the currency and the tight availability leading to volatility in prices. Other origins were reportedly slightly easier and yet the Indian parity was competitive at current rates.

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### Jeera rises on jump in export



Rajkot, Sept 12:

Jeera prices gained on Thursday following export demand. A steady domestic market also supported the rise in prices. On the heels of spot prices rising, jeera future also gained as traders turned optimistic of higher demand.

Jeera traders said that currently, export demand is strong due to Syrian unrest. Due to the tension there, global demand has been diverted to India over the last one month. On the other hand, demand from China is almost nil.

Overall sentiments are still bullish and prices may continue to gain over the next few days.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, jeera October contracts were traded higher by Rs 112.50 at Rs 13,632.50 a quintal, with an open interest of 11,979 lots. November contracts were up by Rs 137.50 to Rs 13,840 with an open interest of 1,752 lots.

In Unjha mandi of Gujarat, about 5,000-5,500 bags jeera arrived and 9,000-10,000 bags were traded. The prices increased by Rs 22-25 to Rs 2,650-2,775 for a *maund* of 20 kg for premium quality, while average price was Rs 2,400-2,600

At Rajkot, best quality jeera was traded at Rs 2,600-2,700 and medium jeera price at Rs 2,500-2,600. About 500-700 bags arrived in Rajkot.

According to the Spices Board data, jeera exports have touched nearly 80,000 tonnes so far this fiscal and more exports are likely in days to come.

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#### Turmeric arrivals likely to rise next week



Erode, Sept 12:

Turmeric exporters and bulk buyers have started buying quality turmeric from Erode markets.

Farmers, who expected increased price are disappointed as the prices are almost stable for want of upcountry demand, said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

On Thursday, 2,490 bags of turmeric arrived for sale, 45 per cent was sold. Stockists purchased limited quantities.

Traders expected arrivals to increase from next week. They expect to get fresh orders too by then.

North India traders have begun buying turmeric from various places such as Assam, Warangal and Nizamabad.

Due to arrival of quality turmeric in the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, traders quoted higher price 200 and it was sold at Rs 5,889 against Rs 5,669 on Wednesday. The price in the Regulated Market Committee decreased.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,609-5,611 a quintal, the root variety Rs 3,499-4,891.

Salem hybrid crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 5,809-6,213, the root variety Rs 4,469-5,311. Of the arrival of 545 bags, 240 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,899-5,889, the root variety Rs 4,699-5,236. Of the 241 bags that arrived, 220 were sold.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,809-5,846, the root variety was sold at Rs 4,569-5,116. Of 750 bags of offer, 710 were traded.

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### Rising arrivals likely to pressure edible oils



Mumbai, Sept. 12:

The weakness in the domestic currency and a firm futures market lifted the sentiment in the edible oils market on Thursday.

Stockists came forward with fresh orders and covered about 2,900 -3,000 tonnes of palmolein during the day.

On the Bombay Commodity Exchange, palmolein and soyabean refined oil declined by Rs 4 each, cotton oil slid by Rs 5 and rapeseed oil lower by Rs 2 for 10 kg each as the new crop has started arriving in producing centres.

Sources said that in the producing centres arrivals of new cotton, groundnut and soyabean crops have started and they will rise gradually in coming days putting pressure on prices.

A weak Indian rupee and firm Malaysian palm oil futures will make palm and soya oil import costlier, supporting the rise in prices.

During the day Liberty sold about 1,500 tonnes palmolein at Rs 575, Ruchi sold 500-550 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 575 and Allana sold 450-500 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 574 for forward delivery. Resellers offloaded 450-500 tonnes palmolein Rs 569-Rs570 ex JNPT for ready delivery.

End of the day, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 575, super palmolein at Rs 605 and super deluxe at Rs 625, soyabean refined oil at Rs 655 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 830.

At Rajkot, groundnut oil was Rs 1,250 (Rs 1,240) for *telia* tin and loose (10 kgs) Rs 800 (Rs 800). Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's October futures closed higher at MYR 2,351 (MYR 2,341), November at MYR 2,344 (MYR 2,333) and December at MYR 2,336 (MYR 2,330).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 830 (830), soya refined oil 651(655), sunflower exp. ref. 735 (735), sunflower ref. 815(815), rapeseed ref. oil 718(720), rapeseed expeller ref. 688 (690) cottonseed ref. oil 655(660) and palmolein 571 (575).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 620/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein forward delivery.

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## Rice traders adopt 'wait-and-watch' policy



Karnal, Sept 12:

Rice prices may drop in the coming days but the fall will be limited, according to trade sources.

Despite restricted trading, the market witnessed a steady trend with prices of aromatic and non-basmati rice ruling unchanged from the previous levels.

Amit Chandna, proprietor, Hanuman Rice Trading Company, told *Business Line* that there is no bulk buying in the market at present as traders have adopted a wait-and-watch policy following uncertainty in the market, he said.

The rice market has already seen some unexpected levels earlier this week and major changes in prices are unlikely in the next couple of days, he said.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) sold at Rs 8,300-8,400 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) was quoted at Rs 7,700-7,800. Pure Basmati (raw) was quoted at Rs 11,000. Duplicate basmati (steam) was sold at Rs 6,750.

For the brokens of Pusa-1121, Dubar quoted at Rs 3,700, Tibar sold at Rs 4,400 while Mongra was at Rs 3,100.

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

Permal (raw) sold at Rs 2,350, Permal (sela) went for Rs 2,300, PR-11 (sela) was sold at Rs 2,900 while PR-11 (raw) was quoted at Rs 2,740. PR14 (steam) was sold at Rs 3,000-3,080.

Paddy arrivals

Around 6,000 bags of different paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal grain market terminal.

About 5,000 bags PR paddy arrived and quoted at Rs 1,340 while around 1,000 of Pusa-1509 arrived and sold at Rs 3,320

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### Despite truck shortage, sugar rules flat



Mumbai, Sept. 12:

Despite shortage of trucks at some producing centres and Rs 10 rise in freight rates, sugar prices remained unchanged in the physical market due to ample stocks in the market. Naka and mill tender rates were also steady on thin volume.

The sentiment was, however, steady on need-based buying, said sources.

They said that there is some shortage of trucks in some producing areas.

Freight rates improved by Rs 10 a bag but it did not affect the market price. Stockists stayed away from buying as demand for *Ganeshotsav* has got over.

Producers are continuously selling as they are carrying surplus. Further new crushing season is nearing.

Sources said the sentiment will remain positive on expectation of higher festivals demand during October-December. Currently, sugar prices are ruling below cost parity.

Arrivals in the Vashi market dropped to 56-57 truckloads (100 bags each) while local dispatches were 55-56 loads.

On Wednesday evening, 10-12 mills sold about 28,000 – 30,000 bags at Rs 2,870-2,950 (Rs 2,870-Rs 2,950) for S-grade and Rs 2,980-Rs 3,050 (Rs 2,980- 3,050) for M-grade.

On National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange sugar October contracts were up by Rs 6 at Rs 2,990 (Rs 2,984), November slid to Rs 3,000 (Rs 3,005) and December static at Rs 2,993 (Rs 2,993) till noon.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were (Rs/quintal): S-grade Rs 3,026– Rs 3,145 (Rs 3,026– Rs 3,142) and M-grade Rs 3,172 - 3,312 (Rs 3,166- 3,312).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,970 -3,030 (Rs 2,970-3,030) and M-grade Rs 3,070-3,200 (Rs 3,070 -3,200).

Uttar Pradesh rates: Lakhimpur Rs 3,400.

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