

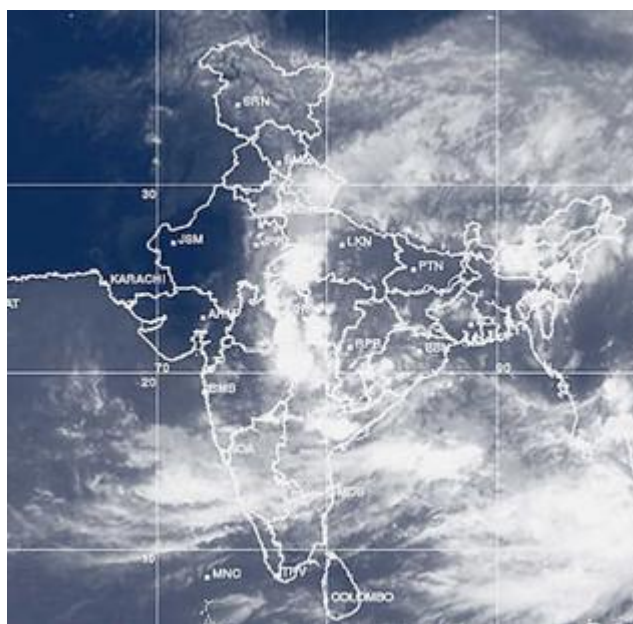
Date : 21.09.2013

THE HINDU

'Prices have fallen'

Merchants at the Bangalore wholesale market, meanwhile, said that onion prices had come down. Fine quality (dry) onion a quintal was being traded at about Rs. 4,000, compared to about Rs. 4,600 last week. Onion coming from Ajjampura in Chikmagalur was being traded at nearly Rs. 3,000 a quintal.

Mainly dry weather



	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	37	26	0	518
New Delhi (Sfd)	36	25	0	787
Chandigarh	35	24	0	825
Hissar	36	22	0	507
Bhuntar	35	15	0	407
Shimla	26	16	0	845
Jammu	33	22	0	1251
Srinagar	28	10	0	249
Amritsar	35	23	0	761

Patiala	35	24	0	725
Jaipur	37	25	0	665
Udaipur	37	23	0	656
Allahabad	35	25	28	990
Lucknow	35	22	4	734
Varanasi	35	25	9	756
Dehradun	33	22	0	2809
Agartala	34	25	2	834
Ahmedabad	38	27	0	772
Bangalore	28	21	0	690
Bhubaneshwar	30	25	21	879
Bhopal	35	23	0	1116
Chennai	35	26	0	633
Guwahati	37	26	2	742
Hyderabad	30	22	11	679
Kolkata	32	27	12	1599
Mumbai	26	23	43	2269
Nagpur	33	24	22	1393
Patna	33	27	10	609
Pune	28	21	2	751
Thiruvananthapuram	31	25	7	1064
Imphal	31	22	0	1038
Shillong	26	18	0	932

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

Southwest monsoon has been active in east-Uttar Pradesh. The withdrawal line of South-west-monsoon continues to passes through Kalpa, Hissar, Jodhpur and Nalia.

Rainfall: Rain/thundershowers have occurred at many places over east Uttar Pradesh and isolated places over west Uttar Pradesh. Weather was dry over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm. are: EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Ballia, Kanpur city and Allahabad 3 each, Sultanpur and Banda 2 each and Basti and Varanasi A.P. 1 each and WEST UTTAR PRADESH: Bareilly 1. each.

FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 22nd SEPTEMBER 2013 :Rain/thundershowers may occur at a few places over Uttar Pradesh during next 24 hours and decrease thereafter.

Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Uttarakhand. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over east Himachal Pradesh from 21st onwards. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over east Rajasthan during next 24 hours and increase thereafter.

Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over west Rajasthan on 22nd. Weather would be mainly dry over rest of the region.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 22nd SEPTEMBER 2013: Partly cloudy sky. Light rain/thundershowers may occur in some areas.

Vaigai dam water release

Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on Friday ordered release of water from the Vaigai dam to irrigate over 1.50 lakh acre farmlands in the three districts of Madurai, Dindigul and Sivaganga.

In a statement, Ms.Jayalalithaa said following representations from the farmers she had directed the water to be released from the dam located in Theni district.

Mettur level

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 110.82 feet on Friday against its full reservoir level of 120 feet. The inflow was 5,238 cusecs and the discharge 18,000 cusecs.

Farmers take to drumstick



S.Karthikeyan, Chairman,Pandyam Grama Bank, planting saplings at Eppodumvendran in Ottapidaram block in Tuticorin district on Friday.— Photo: N. Rajesh

Farmers in drought-prone areas are being urged to switch from grain to vegetable cultivation, particularly high-yielding varieties of drumstick.

Farmers of Ottapidaram block, who hitherto were cultivating maize and other grain, are answering this call.

At a function held at Eppodumvendran on Friday, S. Karthikeyan, Chairman, Pandyan Grama Bank, formally inaugurated the cultivation of the PKM1 variety of drumstick in a field.

He appealed to the farmers of the rain-fed blocks comprising Ottapidaram, Kayathar, Kovilpatti and Pudur to switch to the high-yielding vegetable crops like drumstick.

Further, the farmers could go in for value-addition of drumstick pods and drumstick leaves, he suggested.

Drumstick (moringa PKM1) is commonly grown in Mudalur and Sattankulam blocks. This variety has the potential to flourish in other rain-fed areas of the district as well, which has prompted 14 farmers from Ottapidaram block, covering Eppodumvendran and Pasuvanthai areas, to cultivate the PKM1 variety of drumstick on 18 acres.

Veerapandia Kottabomman Farmers' Club (VKFC), Athanoor has taken the lead in involving the farmers in this activity.

M.R. Natarajan, District Development Manager, NABARD, encouraged their initiatives and organised technical assistance from T. Vijayakumar David, Deputy Manager, SPIC Training Centre, Muthaiapuram.

Mr. David said the farmers in this region could grow annual drumstick ('Chedi Murungai'), which was both profitable and conducive to local conditions.

The 'Chedi Murungai' variety was drought resistant and could be cultivated in various types of soil requiring minimum moisture. The cultivation could be maintained over three to four years. The yield could be around 50 - 55 tonnes of pods per hectare (220 pods per tree per year), Mr. David pointed out.

Water level

Water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 109.80 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 2,549.05 cusecs and 1,237.25 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 59.93 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 94 cusecs and 25 cusecs was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 24.20 feet, 61.30 feet in Perunchani, 8.95 feet in Chittar I, 9.05 feet in Chittar II and 32.64 feet in Mambazhathuraiyaru dam.

Water supply to hit on September 24, 25

Water supply in the city will be hit on September 24 and 25 as the BWSSB will shut down all stages of Cauvery water supply for six hours on September 24 for taking up electrical works.

Farmers panic as cattle die of foot-and-mouth disease

Cases reported from Kolar district and Maddur taluk of Mandya



In Doddagurki village in Mulbagal taluk, 23 head of cattle, 40 goats and four buffaloes have died of the disease.

The death of several head of cattle due to foot-and-mouth disease in the last few weeks in Kolar district has caused panic among farmers.

Though the exact figures are not available with officials of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, it was estimated that more than a 100 head of cattle died of the disease in the last month. Of these, 29 cases were reported from Kolar town and 19 from Rachenahalli in Malur taluk.

In Doddagurki village in Mulbagal taluk, 23 head of cattle, 40 goats and four buffaloes died of the disease. Five head of cattle died in Beechagondanahalli, seven in Vanarasi and eight in Gaddekannur, all in Kolar taluk. However, according to farmers, the actual number of deaths is more.

Visit

The visit of Additional Director of the department Nagaraj Shetty and two experts from the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Devaraj and Rashmi, a couple of days ago to the district following complaints about the spread of the disease brought to the fore the difference of opinion among officials and staff over vaccination to help prevent the disease.

The team noticed that calves and sheep were also suffering from fever at Vanarasi.

Some officials put the blame on farmers for not getting their livestock vaccinated two times in a year as a precautionary measure. They abstained from getting their livestock vaccinated due to some superstitious beliefs, the officials said. However, insiders in the department allege that officers and staff evinced no interest in motivating farmers to get their livestock vaccinated.

A team of officials comprising Ejaz Ahmad and Sriram Reddy beside Mr. Shetty and Deputy Director B.N. Shivaram visited several areas to take stock of the situation. Blood samples were collected from cattle and sheep.

Some cattle rearing farmers explained to the team that they had to spend thousands of rupees daily to get cure for the suffering livestock. "The government should supply medicines free," the farmers demanded.

Kolar Zilla Kurubara Horata Samiti president Tyagaraj Muddappa alleged that veterinarians collected money from farmers for vaccination which was ought to be given free. Such doctors should be suspended, he demanded.

Failure alleged

"The department officials have failed in creating awareness about vaccination. They did not take the issue seriously," a farmer alleged during an interaction with officials at Vanarasi.

Mr. Shetty appealed to the farmers to shed superstitious beliefs and get their cattle vaccinated to save them.

Deputy Commissioner D.K. Ravi has directed the authorities not to sit idle on the pretext that farmers were not showing interest. "Find out alternative ways to motivate farmers to get their cattle vaccinated," he said.

20 deaths in Maddur

M.T. Shiva Kumar from Mandya writes:

At least 20 head of cattle have died of the disease in villages in the vicinity of Lakshmegowdana Doddi in Maddur taluk in the last a few days.

Nearly 100 cattle were affected by the disease in at least 15 villages in the taluk and at least 20 of them have died.

Three cows of Bore Gowda, Jayaramu and Puttaraju of Lakshmegowdana Doddi, died of the disease on Thursday, sources in the Department of Animal Husbandry said. The farmers have demanded compensation for their loss.

Following the outbreak of the disease, department officials have launched a programme to vaccinate cattle in several villages.

Widespread rain brings cheer to farmers



An elderly man is caught unawares as heavy rain lashes Berhampur on Friday. —Photos: Lingaraj Panda

Two days of widespread rain across 30 districts seemed to have brightened the prospects of paddy crop during kharif season even as several pockets in the State are heading for drought-like situation.

The State recorded an average of 13.7 mm rainfall on Thursday and 18.7 mm on Friday, making up for the dry spell witnessed by a few districts during the month of August and first week of September.

Some blocks in Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Bhadrak, Sambalpur, Jajpur, Bhadrak, and Jharsuguda witnessed deviation of up to 40 per cent.

However, widespread rain under the influence of Low Pressure Area that formed over the Bay of Bengal brought cheer among farmers. Agriculture Department sources said that after the timely rain, the hampering of agricultural operation was confined to some panchayats only.

About 20 per cent crop-affect was estimated in Cuttack's three blocks — Niali, Tangi-Choudwar, and Cuttack Sadar, Puri's Astaranga, and Jagatsinghpur's Balikuda area. Meanwhile, Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre predicted heavy rain during the next 24 hours.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Idukki dam in historic heights



District Collector Ajit Patil said those living on the coast of the Periyar should remain alert for the announcements made by the officials of the revenue and the KSEB regarding the water release. (Image: Wikimedia Commons).

Water level in the main Idukki dam crossed 2,400.28 feet mark for the first time in the history on Thursday and it is expected to reach the full reservoir level (FRL) of 2,403 feet in a couple of days if rain continue to lash the catchment areas, District Collector Ajit Patil has said.

The KSEB control room was monitoring the situation on hourly basis to take a decision on releasing the water to maintain safe level, Patil told Express. The KSEB is expecting the dam to reach FRL by September 21 or 22. Meanwhile, the water level in Mullaperiyar dam on Thursday was recorded at 123.4 feet against its permissible level of 136 feet.

The Collector said that those living on the coast of the Periyar should remain alert for the announcements made by the officials of the revenue and the KSEB regarding the water release . If there is a need to open the dam shutters, it would be done in day time and the people will be alerted six to eight hours in advance, the Collector added.

The Collector has issued directions to the Tehsildar and village officers of the vulnerable areas to alert people prior to the opening of shutters. According to the figures, 60 families will be slightly affected in case of water release. Increased release of water may affect a maximum of 150 families, he said. Most of the area are agriculture field along the Periyar river. Special

control rooms have been set up in taluk and village offices to deal with any eventuality. The control rooms will be fully functional from Friday. Three village offices in Udumbanchola taluk, two in Thodupuzha and one in Devikulam taluk have opened control rooms.

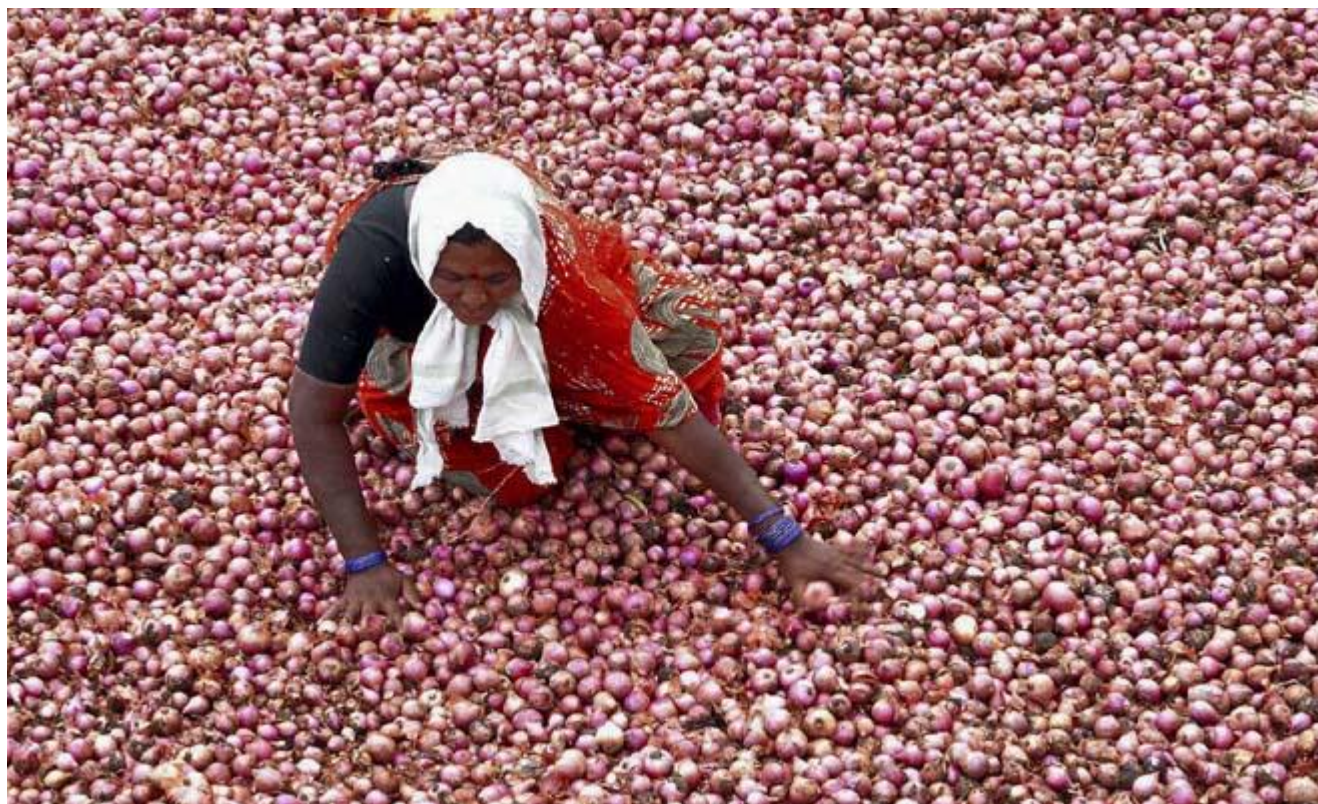
The control room numbers are Cheruthony (dam site)- 946011974, Thakamany- 04868 275293, Upputhodu- 04862 230888, Konnathady-04868 262902, Vathikudy-04868 260302, Idukki-04862 232393, Kanjikuzhy-04862 239582, Vellathooval- 04864 276201, Mannamkandam -04864 222002, Thodupuzha -04862 222098, Udumbanchola - 04868 237865. The district received an average rainfall of 23.04 mm with Devikulam taluk getting a maximum of 28.5 mm, Thodupuzha 26.7 mm, Peermedu 25 mm, and Udumbanchola 14 mm.

Review Meeting

A meeting was held by Roshy Augustine MLA to review the facilities available for the tourists visiting the arch dam in view of Onam holidays. Over 25,000 tourists have visited the dam in the last five days. Ambulance service and medical team will be introduced in Cheruthony dam for the benefit of tourists, Roshy Augustine said.

The Indian **EXPRESS**

Onion price likely to fall soon as Afghan imports slash rates in wholesale market



Around 25 trucks carrying 1,500- 2,000 quintals of onions have arrived at the Azadpur Mandi from Afghanistan, traders said.

Retail prices of onion are likely to soften soon as wholesale rates came down on Friday by Rs 10 per kg with the edible bulb imported from Afghanistan arriving in markets. Prices of the kitchen staple declined a day after the government hiked the minimum export price (MEP) of onions to USD 900 per tonne.

Related: Onion export rate up, Centre asks states to act

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister K V Thomas said Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan has offered onions to the Delhi government on a priority basis to bring down the prices in the national capital.

Related: Price of onions touches Rs 80/kg in market

"With the additional arrival of onions from Afghanistan, prices today fell by Rs 10 per kg to Rs 50 per kg in the wholesale market," Onion Merchant Traders Association president Surendra Budhiraj said.

Traders also attributed the fall in wholesale onion prices to decline in prices in Lasalgaon Mandi in Nashik, which sets the price trend across the country.

Around 25 trucks carrying 1,500- 2,000 quintals of onions have arrived at the Azadpur Mandi from Afghanistan, traders said.

Punjab-based traders have started importing onion from Afghanistan through Attari-Wagah land route in Amritsar. While 400 tonnes of onion came from Afghanistan yesterday, traders said about 2,000 more tonnes of the vegetable will come in from that country in the next 7-10 days.

Mother Dairy outlets in the city, which are selling onions at around Rs 60 per kg, is contemplating to reduce the prices from tomorrow after the fall in the prices at wholesale market, an official said.

When asked about high onion price, Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tewari said: "There is a seasonal movement in onion prices. However, expectations are that prices will settle down in a week or so on improved supplies."

Yesterday, the government had hiked the minimum export price (MEP) of onion to USD 900 per tonnes from USD 650 per tonne to curb outward shipment.

According to National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) data, prices of the politically sensitive commodity at Lasalgaon in Nashik, decreased by Rs 10 per kg to Rs 47 per kg today.

Onion prices fall to Rs 55-60 a kg, 'likely to dip to Rs 15 in a month'

After soaring to Rs 80 a kilogram earlier this week, the onion price on Friday stabilised with the wholesale price touching Rs 4,000 per quintal, bringing down the retail price to Rs 55-60 per kg. Though the wholesale price remains high, traders are speculating that it would come down further, as there has been a good onion crop this season due to ample rainfall and congenial climate. According to traders, although the quality of the fresh produce is not good, the stock has provided some respite to consumers. Traders operating at the Pune Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) said the fall in price was a result of an increase in stock that had arrived from areas around the city and Karnataka. Vilas Bhujbal, a trader at the Gultekdi Market said, "The arrival of freshly-harvested onions has increased. Around 5 to 6 additional truckloads of onions have come from these places. As many as 15 truckloads of the vegetable from Karnataka has also reached the market, thus, reducing its price. The rate of old onions at APMC market is Rs 5,500 per quintal and the freshly-harvested onions are priced Rs 3,000 to 4,500

per quintal." On September 16, the wholesale price of the commodity had touched a record high of Rs 5,500 per quintal in the state. Balasaheb Darade, a trader at Lasalgaon Market, reportedly the biggest onion market in the country, said the prices had come down on Friday at all the major markets in the state. "At Lasalgaon market, the wholesale price on Friday was Rs 4,000 to 4,200 per quintal. With the arrival of fresh stock, the prices at Pune, Vashi (Mumbai), Ahmednagar, Nashik and Pimpalgaon have gone down considerably," Darade said. He, however, added that the quality of the fresh produce was inferior as compared to the old stock. According to traders, the price will continue to fall in the coming weeks. "Our estimate is that the wholesale price will come down to around Rs 15-20 per kilo in a month," Bhujbal said.

Ailing sugar industry spells out its menu of demands

Claiming to be in a precarious situation, the state sugar industry is demanding the state government to declare its sugarcane policy before the industry submits its cane area reservation proposals. The industry has also declared that it could pay only Rs 240 for a quintal of sugarcane in the coming season and would need financial help for any additional cost.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow on Thursday, the Indian Sugar Mills Association said the industry is experiencing its most grim situation what with all the sugar surplus bringing down its prices even in the festive season. But Uttar Pradesh's situation, he said, is worst as cane prices are highest at Rs 280 per quintal with arrears around Rs 2,400 crore.

"Besides deciding on its cane policy, we also want the state government to link the cost of cane to sugar prices and then put a barrier. If the sugar prices are above a certain level, we are ready to pay higher cane prices, but if it is lower, we would not be able to pay above Rs 240 per quintal of cane," Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association president C B Patodia said. The association, he added, has also moved the Allahabad High Court regarding it.

The industry is also demanding that subsidy be given to the mills to clear their cane arrears, along with cash subsidy of Rs 40 to Rs 50 for 2013-14. The industry has also sought for the difference between the cost of rejected and normal varieties of cane be increased from its current price (Rs 5) to at least Rs 25 per quintal.

As per CRISIL's analysis of UP Sugar Industry for the month of September, cane arrears until June were at decadal high of 19 per cent of the total cane procurement price. The State Advisory Price (SAP) of cane increased by 70 per cent in the last three years whereas sugar prices increased by a mere six per cent.

Weather

Chennai

▼

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather

Saturday, Sep 21

Max Min

35° | 27°

Rain: 0 Sunrise: 05:57
 Humidity: 59 Sunset: 06:06
 Wind: normal Barometer: 1004

Tomorrow's Forecast

Sunday, Sep 22

Max Min

34° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday Sep 23	Tuesday Sep 24	Wednesday Sep 25	Thursday Sep 26	Friday Sep 27
35° 25° Partly Cloudy	34° 25° Overcast	34° 25° Overcast	34° 25° Overcast	34° 26° Overcast

Airport Weather

Chennai

▼

Chennai

Rain: 0 Sunrise: 05:57
 Humidity: 59 Sunset: 06:06
 Wind: normal Barometer: 1004

Soaring veggie prices still pinching pockets in Mumbai

After a brief respite during the festive season, vegetable prices have once again gone through the roof this week. The reason —untimely heavy rain in maharashtra.

Prices of almost all vegetables have increased by at least 40-50%. While the cost of onions touched a new high of Rs70-80 a kg in the retail market, good quality green peas were either not available or were being sold for Rs200 a kg.

Heavy rain in rural areas such as Junnar, Manchar, Ambegaon, Narayangaon, Nashik, Satar and Sangli has led to a reduced vegetable supply to the city, which has an average requirement of around 550 vegetable vehicles. However, on Wednesday only 478 vehicles had arrived.

“The rain affected supply of cluster beans and French beans as the farmers avoided entering the fields. Increase in price of green peas is because production in the state has stopped. Now, we are depending on the supply from Himachal Pradesh,” said a senior official from the agriculture department, adding that instead of 20, four vehicles carrying green peas arrived on Wednesday.

The vegetable demand in the city is likely to go up further during the ongoing Pitrupaksha, a 15-day period to honour ancestors.

“With increase in demand, prices are likely to go up further,” the official said.

SK Goel, additional chief secretary, agriculture department, said there was no hoarding of onions by traders.

“We were expecting onion from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to land into the market and stabilise prices here, but that hasn’t happened. Only stock from Karnataka and imported onions from Pakistan have reached the city till now,” he said, adding that they expect that the situation to improve in the next 15 days.

(Inputs by Sayli Udas Mankikar)

NBRI, CIMAP adopt Barabanki, Unnao villages for agri-development

Technology from the CSIR laboratories has started making waves in rural areas too.

Two villages of the state -- in Barabanki and Unnao -- have been adopted by the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) respectively to disseminate lab technologies for the benefit of the rural folks.

The idea is to maximise their agricultural yields and income through technology.

As part of the tech vil (tech village) project, the institutes would cover 50,000 people in each village and its adjoining areas. In this way, the project in UP would reach about 1 lakh people.

“Both institutes would work in tandem to benefit the people of Daun village in Unnao and Dafedar ka Purwa in Barabanki. Various techniques would be shared with people of the village to enable them to make optimum use of the technologies,” said CS Nautiyal, director of NBRI and CIMAP.

From floriculture tricks to floral crafts, dry flower technology to cropping of medicinal plants and aroma oil extraction to aroma-product manufacturing, all such innovations would be taken to villages under the expert guidance of scientists from the two laboratories.

“Centres have been set up and plantations has been done in the two villages.

The plants include medicinal, aromatic plants and flowering plants,” said HS Chauhan, senior scientist, CIMAP.

In addition to disseminating technologies and introducing people to high yielding varieties of plants, biofertilizers are being distributed among them.

The villages have been adopted after a thorough baseline survey of the needs and requirements of the areas.

The initiative comes as a part of the Tech Enabled Village (Tech Vil) project of the CSIR 800 programme that aims to target the common man with the benefits of technologies developed in the CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) laboratories.

As a part of the initiative, the villagers would be trained to benefit from the technologies developed by the various wings of the CSIR.

Technologies and expertise of the wings would be disseminated depending on the needs of the area.

Necessary equipment and infrastructure would also be facilitated by the institutes.

Nineteen tech villages have been proposed by the CSIR to be developed in the country.

Be it enhancing the agriculture yield through technical expertise or introducing new varieties and skills -- the project would incorporate it all for the villagers.

The formal launch of the two tech villages was done last month.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Vadodara-based MNC develops pedal water pump for farmers



A Vadodara-based MNC Xylem Water Solutions is too trying to engage with population at the bottom of the pyramid - the farmers, using innovation.

VADODARA: It seems this election year everyone's focus is on farmers. As Gujarat's Chief Minister plans a project to construct world's largest statue of Sardar Patel in Gujarat to engage Indian farmers across India. Similarly, a Vadodara-based multinational company Xylem Water Solutions is too trying to engage with population at the bottom of the pyramid - the farmers, using innovation.

"We have completed the pilot run of pedal pumps and by next month it would be available in the Indian market" said Sam Yamdagni, managing director, Xylem Water Solutions India, a subsidiary of \$ 3.8 billion Xylem Inc, maker of large water pumps and sewage solution provider.

The company would soon come with its patented pedal water pumps for Indian farmers. Targeting the bottom of the pyramid to enter the Indian agriculture pump markets size of Rs 4550 crore and in future it also plans to export the pedal pumps to countries of emerging economies like Africa, Latin America and SE Asia.

According to Mr. Yamdagni, his company would be targeting the bottom of the pyramid - farmers, which is a voluminous market spread across the length and breadth of India. The first

consignment of 125 pedal pumps would be delivered to a Maharashtra -based NGO to be distributed amongst the farmers there.

Priced at Rs 7000 per piece, pedal pumps has already turned popular amongst the institutional players especially the NGOs, as the company received an order-book for another 1200 pedal pumps.

Interestingly, Xylem's core business is in building large water pumps for industries and sewage treatment plant, usually undertaking large water and sewage solution project across the globe.

So why targeting the farmer?

Nearly eight months ago, Mr Yamdagni, while visiting a village, found farmers struggling with water irrigation due to frequent power cuts. On returning he asked his R&D team at Vadodara to develop water solutions for villagers and farmers. It all started with cycle driven water pump that can be used to fetch water from a pond or water-wells or any other water tank, with least effort. However the idea was dropped as it turned out to be complicated for the farmers and it also required high maintenance, thus making it unviable in long run.

Meanwhile, the R&D team kept pondering on new solutions, the managing director Mr Yamdagni, while working-out on a stepper machine at a gymnasium stuck with an idea to convert the stepper machine into a pedal water pump.

Stepper machine are common in many gymnasium and health clubs, usually consists of two foot platforms that alternately rise and fall as a person take steps. There are also handles for the person to hold onto as he/she step and most have a console that may display steps taken, heart rate, distance and time.

Mr Yamdgani, asked his R&D team to use the principal of stepper machine and convert it into a pedal driven water pumping system. It took 12 months of trial and error to finally develop a workable, user friendly and economical product for the farmers, which allows farmer themselves to repair it in case of breakdown.

"It's an unaccounted for value chain, which cannot be defined by neither an economist nor a

banker, but a farmer can" said Mr Yamdgani. According to him, this kind of farmer friendly product not only makes his company enter into a voluminous business segment, but also allows farmers to get simple solutions instead on high cost solutions like electric water pumps or diesel run water pumps.

Interestingly, rural India still faces power (electricity) cuts for on an average 12 hours, thus affecting farm productivity and farmer's income. On the other hand, with the recent deregulation of diesel prices, the ever rising diesel cost is impacting the income of farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers. "In villages, rental model is used for tractors and water pumps, with no electricity or high diesel prices, a rental model for pedal pumps can also come up" said Mr Yamdgani.

Pedal pump can be used by a 12 year kid weighting 15 kg to any adult with a maximum body weight of 140 kg. "A man with an average body weight of 50 kg can use pedal pump to fetch water for 25 minutes continuously" said Naresh Behl, director operation & projects, Xylem India. He further add that the pedal pump have a water drawing capacity of 18 liters per minute, which is equal to a one horse power electric water pump. The pedal pump has least resistance technology, that allows easy pedaling, which can allow the water to rise to a height of 22 meter (equal to 3 rd floor level).

The company gets its parts custom build from different vendors and assembled at its Vadodara facility. Currently, it has capacity to produce 1200 units in a month. Apart from Indian market, the company would use its Vadodara base to export it to countries in Africa, Latin America and South East Asian countries.

Apart from this, the company is also undertaking a sewage treatment plant project in Jamnagar. The project is a consortium of Essar Group, World Bank, Jamnagar Municipality and Xylem India. It's an Rs 100 crore plus project, which will convert city sewage water into potable water for industrial usage.

Onion from Afghanistan arrive, to help contain prices



With onion prices continuing to remain high, Punjab based traders have started importing it from Afghanistan through Attari-Wagah land route in Amritsar.

CHANDIGARH: With onion prices continuing to remain high, Punjab based traders have started importing it from Afghanistan through Attari-Wagah land route in Amritsar.

While 400 tonnes of onion came from Afghanistan yesterday, traders said about 2,000 more tonnes of the vegetable will come in from that country in the next 7-10 days.

"Considering the severe shortage of onion in the country which pushed up the prices quite high, we decided to import onion from Afghanistan.

"A consignment of 350-400 tonne of onion has already been imported and we expect 1,500-2,000 tonne of onion to flow into India from there through Attari-Wagah land route," Amritsar Exports Chamber of Commerce, President, Rajdeep Uppal told PTI over phone.

As many as 10 traders from Punjab and Delhi imported onion from Kabul. traders said.

Earlier, Amritsar based traders had tried to import onion from neighbouring country Pakistan.

They had even asked their counterparts in Pakistan to seek permission for onion export to India through Attari-Wagah land route in a bid to enhance bulb's supply.

But that could not materialise, traders said. The imported onion from Afghanistan would be sold in the markets of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and even Delhi, traders said.

"Though the crop imported from Afghanistan is not superior to our crop. But its supply will certainly bring down the onion prices in the markets," said Uppal.

Retail prices of onion are ruling at Rs 70 per kg in Punjab and Chandigarh.

India last imported onions from Pakistan in January, 2011 when it faced massive shortage of supplies.

Imported onion arrival brings down wholesale prices by Rs10/kg



According to traders, around 25 trucks carrying 1,500- 2,000 quintals of onions have arrived at the Azadpur Mandi.

NEW DELHI: With arrival of imported onions in the wholesale market, prices of the kitchen staple today came down by Rs 10 but retail prices continued to remain high at Rs 70-80 per kg.

According to traders, around 25 trucks carrying 1,500- 2,000 quintals of onions have arrived at the Azadpur Mandi.

"With the additional arrival of onions from Afghanistan prices today fell by Rs 10 per kg to Rs 50 per kg in the whole sale market," Onion Merchant Traders Association President Surendra Budhiraj said.

Mother Dairy outlets in the city, which are selling onions at around Rs 60 per kg, is contemplating to reduce the prices from tomorrow after the fall in the prices at wholesale market, an official said.

Prices of kitchen staple have fallen a day after the government hiked the minimum export price (MEP) of the Onions to USD 900 per tonne.

MEP is is a benchmark price below which onion cannot be exported.

Traders also attributed the fall in wholesale onion prices to decline in prices of the bulb in Lasalgaon Mandi in Nashik, which sets the price trend across the country.

According to National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) data, prices of the politically sensitive commodity at Lasalgaon in Nashik, decreased by Rs 10 per kg to Rs 47 per kg today.

Earlier this week, Food Minister K V Thomas had said that arrival of onions is good. "Our calculation is that prices will come down by end of this month or early next month."

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation had risen for the third straight month to 6.1 per cent in August, driven by a whopping 244.62 per cent jump in onion prices on an annual basis.

Government hopes onion prices would ease in a week



Retail prices of onion have soared to Rs 70-80 per kg in most parts of the country, after dropping to Rs 50-55 per kg a week ago from the same high level due to seasonal shortages.

NEW DELHI: Ruling out the possibility of declaring onion as an essential item, the government said its prices would ease in a week's time on improvement in the demand and supply situation.

Retail prices of onion have soared to Rs 70-80 per kg in most parts of the country, after dropping to Rs 50-55 per kg a week ago from the same high level due to seasonal shortages.

"There is a seasonal movement in onion prices. However, expectation are that prices will settle down in a week or so on improved supplies," Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tiwari said here when asked if the Centre plans to place onion in the list of items covered under the Essential Commodities Act.

While the concern about price rise is appreciable but there is a need to maintain balance when addressing problems that are more structural and systemic in nature, he told reporters after the Cabinet meeting, adding that onion is not an item qualified under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Yesterday, both Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar and Consumer Affairs Minister K V Thomas had said that onion prices are expected to cool down in next 2-3 weeks on fresh crop arrival. Thomas had ruled out declaring onion as an essential item.

Onion, a politically sensitive commodity, in 2004 was deleted from the list of items covered under the Essential Commodities Act following satisfactory production and stable price trend. Earlier, there were 130 items under the Act.

The Centre has been taken several steps to control onion prices. It has further restricted exports by raising minimum export price of onion to \$900 a tonne from \$ 650 a tonne. It has permitted import of onions to boost local supplies.

The Centre has also issued advisories to states to crackdown on hoarders and speculators responsible for keeping onion prices artificially high.

Onion prices continue to remain high as stored onions are getting exhausted very fast and fresh crop from Southern states are not coming in full swing due to heavy rains.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Milk prices up by Rs 2 per litre from today

CHANDIGARH: In another blow to the household budget of the common man, milk prices in the city are set to go up by Rs 2 per litre from Saturday.

After a decision by Milkfed, which sells milk under its brand Verka, to hike prices from Saturday, Haryana Dairy Development Co-operative Federation Limited, which sells Vita milk, too has decided to revise its rates from Monday.

With diesel prices going up regularly, the transportation and procurement charges of milk by these units from dairy farmers across the states of Punjab and Haryana too has increased, which is one of the factors behind the decision.

Maninder Singh, member, Chandigarh Dairy Association, said any hike by popular brands has an effect on the price of loose supply as well as milk will become costly at all outlets by at least Rs 2 from next week.

Vegetable prices sizzle again

PUNE: After a brief respite, retail prices of kitchen staples such as tomato, green chillies, bottle gourd, cauliflower and even the humble coriander leaves are on the rise once again. Prices of most vegetables have increased by Rs 10 to Rs 15 per kilogram in the last 10 days.

This time around, vendors and retailers blame the heavy rains over the fortnight that they say has affected the supply and also led to large scale spoilage and wastage.

While onion prices are still leading, selling for as much as Rs 80 per kg in some parts of the city, most other vegetables too are commanding as much as Rs 60 per kg, almost a 30% increase from their normal rates.

The sky-high prices have disturbed monthly budgets for most citizens. "Prices of almost all vegetables have shot up. I am paying at least Rs 150 to Rs 200 extra every week for vegetables. While I have so far not cut down on my purchases, I think I should start buying more

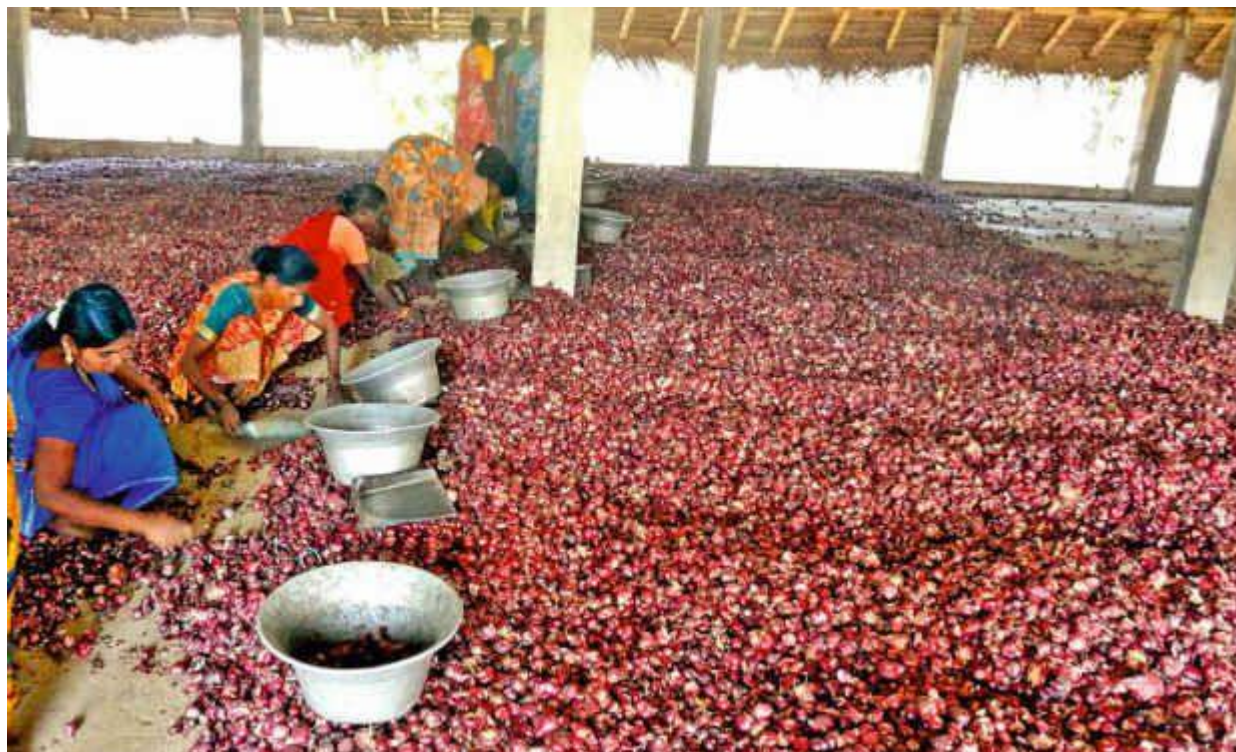
pulses to reduce the amount spent on vegetables," says Baner resident Dhanashree Thosar.

Sanjiv Khadke, administrator of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee admits that supply is affected, which has led to escalation in prices. "The heavy rain in the last few days led to a scarcity as supplies reach the city on a day-to-day basis. Against an average of 8,000 quintals of vegetables and 1.5 lakh bunches of green leafy vegetables, only 7,500 quintals of vegetables and 1.30 lakh bunches of green, leafy vegetables reached the wholesale market on Wednesday, which resulted in the increased retail prices on Friday. Supply has improved on Friday as there was no rain. Prices will come back to normal once the season's rainfall abates," he said.

Retailers said they can recover costs only if they increased the prices. "How can I sell onion for less than Rs 75 per kg, when I myself purchase it at Rs 70 per kg? Prices have gone up for all vegetables, even more for those which spoil easily. Customers still buy the vegetables, though in lesser quantities," said Rajeev Prajapati, who has a stall in Model Colony.

DECCAN Chronicle

This onion wipes away farmers' tears



Farmers segregate different quality of onions after the harvest in Karasanur village.

Chennai: Not always do onions draw tears. A group of farmers in Karasanur, in Villupuram, have been exporting the 'Bengaluru rose', a variety of onion, to Singapore and Malaysia where hotels use them in soups. They sell one tonne of onions for `50,000, bypassing middlemen.

The lives of nearly 50 farmers have thus changed after they shifted from cultivating millets to export-quality onions. The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) organised a media visit to Karasanur along with its agricultural experts where an interaction was organised with onion farmers.

C. Muthuraman, (62), who has been involved in onion cultivation since the last two years, said, "I cultivate onions on one acre of my two-acre farm and harvest four tonnes once a year. I also cultivate ladies finger, urad dal and brinjal. We have stopped cultivating thinai (millet). We got in touch with onion traders through the MSSRF and export our produce. We do not depend on middlemen these days," he said.

Another onion farmer, Machakanan Pavadai, (60), said he planned to put his children through good colleges. "I am sure I will send my children to a good higher education institution. My wife Annamal is also eager to send them to the city," he said.

He, too, cultivates onions on his one-acre farm. "As the onion is a three-month crop, I prepare the land for paddy cultivation after the harvest," he added.

The media interaction included a query about whether they were interested in getting their children involved in agriculture as the farmers were now earning good profits from the export of onions. Not a single hand from the group went up.

When asked why, they said, "We do not want our children to be farmers. If they study engineering they can get placed in some private firms," they said.

Two parents said that they had prevented their sons from joining agricultural university though they had been interested in doing so.

Business Standard

Onion prices fall on warning to hoarders

MEP increase, arrival of new season crop also support the move



Onion prices, the primary factor behind India's headline inflation touching a six-week high a few days ago, softened, led by a 20 per cent fall in major mandis in Maharashtra. The price fall followed the Maharashtra government's stern warning that it would initiate 'raids' on hoarding. The Centre's decision to raise the minimum export price (MEP) 38 per cent and arrival of the new crop aided the fall.

It is expected prices in retail markets would react to the price fall soon. Onion prices fell 17.3 per cent in Lasalgaon, Asia's largest spot selling onion mandi. At Pimpalgaon, prices plunged 22.7 per cent.

On Thursday, the Maharashtra government had convened a meeting of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee secretaries in Nashik and warned the government would carry out raids on hoarders to unearth hidden stocks. "The price decline after the government's threat shows traders were hoarding the commodity to create artificial shortage and keep prices high," said a Nashik-based exporter.

R P Gupta, director, National Horticulture Research & Development Foundation (NHRDF), said, "The actual impact on other markets would be seen in a day or two."

Harvesting of the kharif onion crop started in Maharashtra and the first lot of 1,000 tonnes arrived in the markets in Ahmednagar and adjoining areas. The new crop was quoted at Rs 24-

25 a kg, about 35 per cent lower than the prices of the previous crop. Pune markets received about 200 tonnes of the new crop, quoted at Rs 35 a kg. NHRDF data show arrivals in Pune stood at 1,037 tonnes on Friday, against 477 tonnes on Thursday. As the new crop from Karnataka has also started arriving in major mandis, the supply pressure on Maharashtra has eased. Therefore, prices would be lower from here, Gupta said.

On Thursday, the Centre had raised the MEP for onion to \$900 a tonne from \$650 a tonne to discourage exports. Onion exports fell 81 per cent year-on-year to 29,247 tonnes in August, after the government imposed curbs on exports. India, the second-largest producer of onions in the world after China, is estimated to have harvested 16.6 million tonnes of the commodity last year. In 2012, the total realisation from exports of 0.18 million tonnes of onions stood at Rs 2,294 crore.

To meet the high demand during the festive season, Food Minister K V Thomas had decided its import onions from Egypt, Pakistan, China, etc.

On a free fall (Rs /qtl)			
Markets	Sep-19	Sep-20	Change (%)
Bangalore	4,000	3,800	(-)5.00
Bhuvaneshwar	4,700	4,600	(-)2.13
Delhi	5,575	5,300	(-)4.93
Hyderabad	3,300	3,000	(-)9.09
Jaipur	5,500	5,050	(-)8.18
Jalgaon	4,200	3,500	(-)16.67
Kolkata	5,000	4,500	(-)10.00
Lasalgaon	5,200	4,300	(-)17.31
Malegaon	5,050	4,300	(-)14.85
Mumbai	5,600	5,400	(-)3.57
Pimpalgaon	5,500	4,250	(-)22.73

Bihar govt to resume sale of closed sugar mills

Only 4 of the 8 sugar mills of Bihar State Sugar Development Corporation would be on the block



Bihar government has decided to resume the sale of its closed sugar mills. However, this time only 4 of the 8 sugar mills of the Bihar State Sugar Development Corporation would be on the block and the rest of them would be handed over to the Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) for industrial purposes.

The state government is planning to offer its Warsiliganj, Banmankhi, Hatwa and Lohat sugar mills to private investors on long term lease. "We are planning to resume the bidding process for leasing out our sugar mills from the next month," Sudheer Kumar, Sugarcane Secretary told Business Standard, "We are hopeful that the process would be complete by the end of the calendar year. In this round we will be offering only 4 mills as the rest of them are too small to generate any interest."

State government has also roped in SBI Caps as financial consultant to facilitate the bidding process. "SBI Caps is evaluating these mills and if necessary would revise the earlier set floor price. The floor prices would be finalised by the next month," told Kumar.

Meanwhile, the state government has decided to hand over New Sawan, Siwan, Garaul and Guraru sugar mills to BIADA. "These mills have not been found viable. In last 5 years, we have tried very hard to give them to private investors, but no proposal was received for their revival. They are too small for being used for sugar production. Therefore, we have decided to hand them over to BIADA for purposes other than sugar production."

The BIADA is planning to develop industrial parks on the land of these sugar mills.

The state government began leasing its closed mills to private companies since 2008. So far, the government has been able to lease out its 7 of its 15 closed sugar mills to different companies. Sugauli and Lauria Mills were bought by HPCL in the first phase of the bidding in 2009.

Meanwhile, Patna based Tirhut Industries bought Rayyam and Sakri in the second phase, which concluded in 2010. The biggest sugar mill of the state, Motipur Sugar Mill was leased to Indian Potash Ltd. (a PSU, in which IFFCO holds majority stakes) in 2011, while NOIDA based Pristine Logistics got the Bihta Sugar Mill.

Last year, Kolkata based Winsome International Ltd. bought Samastipur sugar mill in the fourth round of bidding.

[Imported onion arrival brings down wholesale prices by Rs10/kg](#)

Prices of onions have fallen a day after the govt hiked MEP of the commodity to \$900 per tonne



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per kg in the whole sale market," Onion Merchant Traders Association President Surendra Budhiraj said.

ALSO READ: Govt hopes onion prices would ease in a week

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ALSO READ: MP govt refuses to take blame for spiralling onion prices

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Earlier this week, Food Minister K V Thomas had said that arrival of onions is good. "Our calculation is that prices will come down by end of this month or early next month."

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation had risen for the third straight month to 6.1% in August, driven by a whopping 244.62% jump in onion prices on an annual basis.

Soybean down 0.9% further on global cues

October contracts eased by 0.6%, while Nov contracts fell by 0.5%

Soybean prices fell further by Rs 34.50 to Rs 3,527 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators indulged in offloading positions, triggered by a weak trend in the overseas markets.

Besides, a low demand in the spot market also dampened the trading sentiments.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange counter, soybean prices for February contracts moved down by Rs 34.50, or 0.97% to Rs 3,527 per quintal, having an open interest of 590 lots.

Similarly, delivery in October contracts eased by Rs 21.50 or 0.62% to Rs 3,428 per quintal, in an open interest of 87,350 lots, while November contracts fell by Rs 20, or 0.58% to Rs 3,450 per quintal, having an open interest of 87,170 lots.

Marketmen attributed fall soyabean prices at futures trade to a weak trend overseas and subdued demand at spot markets.

Crude palm oil down 0.3% for third day

Oil for delivery in October traded lower by 0.25%



Continuing its losing streak for the third straight day, crude palm oil prices fell by another 0.36% to Rs 524 per 10 kg in futures market today.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for delivery in September slipped by Rs 1.90, or 0.36% to Rs 524 per 10 kg in business turnover of 103 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in October traded lower by Rs 1.30, or 0.25% to Rs 515 per 10 kg in 84 lots.

Market analysts said besides weak demand in the spot market, increased supplies from producing centres mainly influenced crude palm oil prices to trade lower at futures trade.

Potato down 0.2% on increased supply

Subdued demand in the spot market put pressure on the prices



Potato prices declined by 0.29% to Rs 804.60 per quintal in futures trading today after speculators trimmed positions amid increased supplies from producing regions.

Besides, subdued demand in the spot market also put pressure.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for delivery in March softened by Rs 2.30, or 0.29% to Rs 804.60 per quintal in business turnover of 21 lots.

Market analysts attributed the fall in potato futures to the increased supplies from producing regions against low demand in the spot market.

Cardamom down by 0.6% on sluggish demand

Adequate stocks availability in the physical market following increased arrivals from producing regions affected prices



Cardamom prices lost 0.62% to Rs 758.50 per kg in futures trade today as speculators trimmed their positions tracking a weak trend at spot market on sluggish demand.

Adequate stocks availability in the physical market following increased arrivals from producing regions also put pressure on cardamom.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in October fell further by Rs 4.70, or 0.62% to Rs 758.50 per kg in business turnover of 281 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in November traded lower by Rs 4.10, or 0.51% to Rs 803 per kg in 26 lots.

Market analysts said speculators trimmed their positions tracking a weak trend at spot market on sluggish demand against adequate stocks position mainly kept pressure on cardamom prices at futures trade.

THE HINDU Business Line

Turning dearer



Lower arrivals: A tomato vendor in the Capital on Friday. After onions, it is now the turn of tomatoes to flare up in Delhi. Retail prices of tomatoes have risen to over Rs 55 a kg from Rs 35-40 earlier on dip in arrivals. Trade sources at the Azadpur mandi said Delhi is to get 100-125 trucks, each carrying 12-15 tonnes every day, but is now getting 25-30 trucks a day. — Kamal Narang

Lower arrivals buoy copra



Erode, Sept 20:

Copra and coconut oil prices increased in Tamil Nadu following poor arrivals this week.

“Coconut oil price has increased to Rs 1,170 for 15 kg loose pack (Rs 78 a kg). This is due to the demand for the coconut oil. Next week, the traders are expecting further increase,” said R.M. Palanisamy, a coconut oil trader.

He said that prices in the international Market have increased. However, the price of palm kernel rules below Rs 60 a kg.

As a result, biscuit firms are patronising palm kernel oil.

Almost all the coconut oil crushers have ample stocks to meet the demand, but copra farmers having limited stocks.

Kerala coconut oil producers have also started buying copra from the Avalpoondurai and other markets in Erode district.

Copra arrivals at the Avalpoondurai Regulated Market Committee sales decreased this week.

Only 755 quintals (1,510 bags) arrived for sale, and traders higher price. Hectic competition was seen in the sale to garner stocks.

Buyers said that they are expecting the price of coconut oil to go up, so they are buying copra.

At Avalpoondurai RMC on Friday, the first grade copra was sold at Rs 5,525 -5,835 a quintal, second grade at Rs 4,735-5,425.

The first grade copra increased by Rs 150 and second grade by Rs 110.

All the 755 quintals of copra on offer were sold.

At Gobichettipalayam, only 210 quintal of copra arrived. This is 100 quintal lower than last week. Copra was sold at Rs 5,264-5,744 a quintal, up Rs 110 over last week.

Selling pressure pounds pepper



Kochi, Sept 20:

Pepper futures dropped on Friday on fear “tainted pepper” will be released in the market following withdrawal of the case in the Madhya Pradesh High Court. In addition, selling pressure in the plains of Kerala added to the downtrend.

Reports of Vietnam market turning easy put further pressure.

Reports from Colombo, quoting Sri Lankan exporters, said that inquiries from Indian importers were floating in the markets there for 525 -550 GL pepper at \$6,500 a tonne (c&f), Kochi, market sources said.

Consequently, all the active contracts fell.

On the India Pepper and Spice Trade Association (IPSTA) platform, prices of active contracts fell sharply.

Low bulk density pepper, having high moisture content, was arriving only at the terminal markets.

On Friday, 11 tonnes of the material arrived and 10 tonnes were traded.

Meanwhile, sellers of Rajkumari (Idukki) pepper, who were not offering their produce when buyers showed interest to buy at Rs 420, were willing to sell at the same price. But, the buyers seem to be uninterested.

Domestic demand has also slowed down as buyers were not forthcoming to cover in a declining and uncertain market, sources said.

Besides, the high fluctuation in the currency rates is also a dissuading factor, they claimed.

On the NMCE, October and November contracts decreased by Rs 306 and Rs 146 a quintal respectively to Rs 43,200 and Rs 43,775 a quintal. December contracts moved up by Re1 to Rs 44,051.

Total open interest declined by three tonnes to 39 tonnes. Total turnover moved up by three tonnes to 24 tonnes.

Spot prices fell further by Rs 200 to close at Rs 40,300 (ungarbled) and Rs 42,300 (garbled) a quintal on limited activities.

Indian parity in the international market has moved up on strengthening of the rupee against the dollar to \$7,250 a tonne (c&f) Europe and \$7,500 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

'Curbs on GM crop trials have paralysed seed industry'

Coimbatore, Sept 20:

With uncertainty dogging trials of genetically modified crops, the Indian seed industry is in a state of limbo, Chairman of the Association of Biotech Led Enterprises – Agriculture Group (ABLE – AG) V.R. Kaundinya said.

He told *Business Line* that “February 8, 2010 will remain an unforgettable day for the industry, for it was on that day the then Minister for Environment and Forest Jairam Ramesh imposed a moratorium on Bt Brinjal. Since then, GM trials have turned patchy. Further, with the GEAC (Genetic Engineering Approval Committee) becoming inactive in the last 18-months or so and the subsequent decision to withdraw GM (Genetically-modified) crop trials since May this year, the situation has worsened for the investors in this space,” he said

The industry has lost confidence as the entire investment in GM crop developments has taken a beating.

Industry players are in a wait-and-watch mode even for setting up labs. All our calculations have gone haywire, Kaundinya said.

Stating that stopping GM trials is a retrograde step and not the answer, he said the industry, instead, has been asking the Government to strengthen the regulatory process.

Meanwhile, with the matter in the Supreme Court and several State Governments not giving the No-Objection Certificate for field trials, the entire exercise has almost come to a halt.

“This is neither in the interest of the industry nor the farmer,” he said.
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Farm trade surplus trebles in four years



The way shipments have grown (in \$ million)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Rice	2,372.3	2,542.9	5,030.7	6,213.6
Wheat	0.0	0.2	213.5	1,927.7
Sugar & molasses	274	1,236.4	1,872	1,617.7
Spices	1,297.8	1,765.4	2,758.6	2,815.5
Oil meals	1,650.8	2,429.5	2,461.6	2,907.9
Meat & meat preparations	1,325	1,966.5	2,944.5	3,290.3

Source: DGCIS

Exports of rice, wheat, cotton and spices rise

New Delhi, Sept 20:

India's current account deficit may have surged by nearly two-and-a-half times from \$38.18 billion to \$88.16 billion between 2009-10 and 2012-13. But the same period has seen the country's agricultural trade surplus – the difference between its exports and imports of farm commodities – expand three-folds from \$8 billion to \$25 billion on rising exports of commodities such as rice, wheat, cotton and spices among others.

The rupee's depreciation of about 13 per cent in the current financial year so far may help further expand the agri-trade surplus, say experts.

An analysis of the export figures reveal that the agri-trade surplus, which stood at \$8 billion in 2009-10 has shot up to \$25.45 billion in 2012-13 as shipments surged after exports of non-basmati rice, wheat and sugar were thrown open in the past couple of years.

Though India has been a net agri-exporter in the past two decades, the trade surplus has widened mainly over the last few years.

Total agricultural exports stood at \$40.64 billion in 2012-13, a growth of 8.4 per cent over \$37.47 billion in 2011-12.

Imports of agricultural products were \$14.21 billion in 2012-13, a growth of 18 per cent over 2011-12 as Indians consumed more edible oils and pulses.

"This widening agricultural trade surplus reflects the increasing competitiveness of India's exports in the world market," said Tejinder Narang, a grains trade analyst.

And this momentum in agricultural exports could be sustained provided the Government does not tinker with the export policy, although the volatile rupee is posing a temporary concern for the exporters, Narang said.

Rice exports have more than doubled in the last two years after the Government permitted shipments of non-basmati rice.

In fact, India has emerged as the largest rice exporter, displacing Thailand, and the value of the total rice shipments stood at a record \$6.21 billion in 2012-13.

Wheat shipments have surged to close to \$2 billion in value terms for 2012-13 after the Government allowed shipments from the Central pool stocks.

Surge in output rice and wheat in the recent years has helped boost the shipments to overseas markets.

Exports of cotton, meat and meat preparations and oilmeals are the other major farm products that have witnessed significant growth in recent years.

Last year, India had also emerged as the largest exporter of buffalo meat worth \$3 billion, overtaking Brazil, Australia and the US. Similarly, the import of edible oils has more than doubled in the past four years to over \$11.23 billion in 2012-13 on rising consumption.

The import bill of pulses rose to a high of \$2.34 billion as domestic production continues to fall short of the rising demand.

In a recent discussion paper, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices Chairman Ashok Gulati had made a pitch for a stable, long-term consistent and predictable agri-trade policy to regulate exports and imports taking recourse to tariff measures and not quantitative restrictions. He had said a stable and liberal trade policy with moderate duties of 5-10 per cent will go a long way in promoting the country's agricultural growth.

Govt nod for more spend to boost food output

New Delhi, Sept 20:

The Government has approved an allocation of Rs 12,350 crore to increase foodgrain production by about 25 million tonnes (mt) under the National Food Security Mission in the 12th Plan.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Friday approved the allocation that would help boost rice output by 10 mt, wheat by eight mt, pulses by four mt and coarse cereals by three mt by 2016-17.

For fiscal 2013-14, the outlay for NFSM has been increased to Rs 2,250 crore from Rs 1,850 crore last year.

NFSM, which will be implemented in 27 States, will focus on cropping systems instead of individual crops and will also include coarse cereals through the development of farmer producer organisations, creating value chains and providing market linkages.

promote technologies

The mission will promote improved technologies, such as water efficiency, adoption of quality seeds, enhancing farm efficiency through improved agronomic practices, such as line sowing, direct seeding and integrated nutrient and pest management, among others. Proven crop production technologies developed by the National Agricultural Research System would be made available to farmers through a series of planned interventions and financial incentives.

Launched in 2007-08 with an outlay of Rs 4,882.48 crore for the 11th Plan (2007-12), NFSM has succeeded in meeting its objective of raising foodgrain output by 20 mt, the statement said.

Stockholding limits

The Cabinet has extended the stockholding limit on commodities such as pulses, edible oils and oilseeds for another year till September 2014, a move that will ensure availability and also keep prices under check.

The move would enable the State Governments to take effective de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, an official statement said.

The move will help in the efforts being made to tackle the problem of rising prices and improve the availability of these commodities for the general public, it added.

The validity of the current stockholding limits order with respect to these items will expire on September 30.

Spot rubber weakens

Kottayam, Sept 20:

Spot rubber weakened on Friday mainly on buyer resistance. This was despite any improvement in arrivals as untimely rains continued to disrupt tapping in major plantation areas. According to reports, prices remained under pressure following reports of 1.35 lakh tonnes of rubber being imported till August from April.

Sheet rubber dropped to Rs 185.50 from Rs.186 and Rs 186.50 a kg respectively, according to traders and the Rubber Board.

The trend was partially mixed as latex improved sharply on fresh demand.

October futures declined to Rs 179.21 (Rs 183.41), November to Rs 179.36 (Rs 182.96), December to Rs 181.30 (Rs 184.92) and January to Rs 185.25 (Rs 187) while the February futures increased marginally to Rs 189.50 (Rs 189) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) slid to Rs 166.05 (Rs 166.25) at Bangkok. September futures closed at ₹268.7 (Rs 168.61) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 185.50 (186); RSS-5: 181 (182); Ungraded: 175 (176); ISNR 20: 172 (172) and Latex 60%: 138.50 (134).

Selling pressure dissolves sugar



Mumbai, Sept. 20:

Sugar prices declined by Rs 10-20 a quintal across the board on Friday as producers sold at lower rates to ease burden of surplus stocks with the new crushing season starting from October 1.

On the Vashi wholesale market, spot prices dropped by Rs 15-30, while naka rates were down by Rs 20-30. Mill tender rates were lower by Rs 10-15 on slack demand and routine volume. Stockists demand also remained lower at upper level as market carries huge stock. Arrivals in the Vashi market were down to 59-60 truckloads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 57-58 loads. On Thursday evening, 15-16 mills offered tenders and sold 53,000-54,000 bags at Rs 10 lower at Rs 2,840-2,940 (Rs 2,850-2,940) for S-grade and Rs 2,970-3,030 (Rs 2,970-3,040) for M-grade.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 3,002-3,135 (Rs 3,032-3,145) and M-grade Rs 3,141-3,292 (Rs 3,156-3,292). *Naka* delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,940-3,000 (Rs 2,960-3,030) and M-grade Rs 3,050-3,180 (Rs 3,070-3,200). Uttar Pradesh rates were: Lakhimpur Rs 3,400 and Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,330.

Cotton wilts on slack offtake



Rajkot, Sept. 20:

Cotton prices declined on the back of sluggish demand coupled with rising new crop arrivals.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton dropped by Rs 200 to Rs 46,500-47,000 a candy of 356 kg. About 1,200 bales (of 170 kg each) of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 9,500-10,000 bales across the country.

Kapas or raw cotton price also moved down by Rs 5-7 to Rs 1,220-1,235 for a *maund* of 20 kg. New *kapas* was traded at Rs 1,050-1,150 .

About 8,000 maund of new *kapas* arrived in the Saurashtra region.

A broker said that cotton prices may decrease further by the month-end as demand is on the wane. Buyers are waiting for arrivals of quality produce, which is likely to come after first or second week of October.

Ginners will also start their units after *Navaratri* festival. Once ginning activity begins, demand is likely to pick up from the middle of October.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat Agriculture Department data showed that cotton has been sown on 2.68 lakh hectares in the State this year against 2.36 lakh hectares last year. Production in the State is likely to be 11.15 million bales.

With supplies increasing, pulses outlook turns bearish



Indore, Sept. 20:

With arrival outstripping demand, pulse seeds and pulses are seeing a sluggish trend.

Downtrend continued in masoor on weak demand and buying support with masoor (bold) on Friday being quoted at Rs 4,150-75, while masoor (medium) ruled at Rs 3,900-4,000 a quintal.

Besides slack demand, strengthening of rupee against dollar and lower imports also aided the sluggish trend.

Masoor dal (average) was at Rs 4,800-25 , masoor dal (medium) at Rs 4,875-4,900, while masoor dal (bold) ruled at Rs 5,000-25.

Arrival of new crop with high moisture content also dragged moong by Rs 400-500.

Amid an arrival of about 300 bags of new crop, moong (bold) ruled at Rs 5,009-5,100 , while moong (medium) ruled stable at Rs 4,500-4,800.

With rise in arrival of new moong, bullish trend appears unlikely.

Moong dal (medium) was being quoted at Rs 5,900-6,100, moong dal (bold) at Rs 6,200-6,300, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 6,600-6,800.

Slack demand also dragged urad with urad (bold) being quoted at Rs 3,500-3,700, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,200-3,300. Urad dal (medium) was Rs 4,100-4,200, urad dal (bold) at Rs 4,200-4,400, while urad mongar ruled at Rs 4,900-5,200 a quintal.

With scattered arrival of new urad and prospect of better crop, bullish trend in urad also appears unlikely in the coming days.

Bulk buyers shy away from edible oils



Mumbai, Sept. 20:

Increased arrivals of soyabean in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and groundnut and cotton in Gujarat, along with bearish trend in the futures market, kept edible oil prices under pressure. The volume remained subdued, tracking weak domestic currency making imports costly. Local refineries raised their rates for palmolein by Rs 6 for 10 kg.

Sources said that due to improved arrivals of indigenous oilseeds such as soyabean, groundnut and cotton in producing centres and extended loss in the futures market, stockists kept away from the market. In Mumbai, Liberty sold 250-300 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 557. Ruchi sold about 150-200 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 557 and 100-150 tonnes of soyabean refined oil at Rs 625. Rates were hiked by Rs 3-4, post lunch.

Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 561, super palmolein Rs 591 and super deluxe Rs 611, soyabean refined oil Rs 635 and sunflower refined oil Rs 815. Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 560, soyabean refined oil Rs 625 and sunflower refined oil Rs 810. Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 561, super palmolein Rs 610, soyabean refined oil Rs 635 and sunflower refined oil Rs 815.

In Rajkot, groundnut oil declined by Rs 10 to Rs 1,290 for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) dropped by Rs 25 to Rs 825 . New soyabean arrivals in Madhya Pradesh were 2 lakh bags and prices were Rs 3,000-3,400 ex mandi and Rs 3,425-50 for plant delivery. Mustard seed arrivals were 82,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,100-3,650.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's October contracts settled lower at MYR 2,305 (MYR 2,322), November at MYR 2,300 (MYR 2,318) and December at MYR 2,300 (MYR 2,317).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 850 (860), soya refined oil 625 (625), sunflower exp. ref. 740 (740), sunflower ref. 805 (805), rapeseed ref. oil 705 (717), rapeseed expeller ref. 675 (687) cottonseed ref. oil 660 (655) and palmolein 558 (554).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 630/10 kg - for Malaysia palm super deluxe - forward delivery.

Some turmeric orders flow in from N. India



Erode, Sept. 20:

Spot turmeric prices ruled steady on Friday despite pick-up in sales.

“Farmers expected the price to go up and brought their produce. On Friday, 3,320 bags arrived for sale and 60 per cent was sold,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

Some exporters have received fresh orders from North India so they bought quality turmeric. Usually during this season, arrivals will be low but sales will be high. But this year, the demand is low. Even the demand from local turmeric powder sellers is low.

Almost all the hybrid finger and root varieties were procured by exporters.

At Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,609-5,867; the root variety Rs 3,235-4,921 a quintal.

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 4,838-6,316 and the root variety Rs 4,399-5,131. Of the 785 bags that arrived, 366 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety quoted Rs 4,899-5,789; the root variety Rs 4,539-5,127. Of the 498 bags on offer, 374 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,599-5,811; the root variety Rs 4,274-5,139. All the 725 bags were traded.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,472-5,845 and the root variety Rs 4,169-5,339. All the 272 bags were sold.

Demand for wheat may rise in near term



Karnal, Sept. 20:

Wheat futures may be range-bound or rule weak, while dara wheat in the physical market may not see much fluctuation in the coming days, said market experts.

Expectations of an increase in demand pushed dara prices marginally up, while flour continued to rule flat on moderate buying on Friday.

Hopes of a rise in demand mainly pushed up the prices, said Radhey Shyam, a trade expert.

Demand is likely to improve in coming days because migrant labourers will be here from the neighbouring States for the kharif harvest, he said.

Domestic demand is also providing good support to the market and it may rule range-bound for the next few days but within a positive territory, he said.

In the physical market, dara wheat recovered by Rs 5 and quoted at Rs 1,470-75 a quintal.

Around 1,000 bags of wheat arrived and stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,470 while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,475.

A flat trend was witnessed on the NCDEX.

Wheat for October contracts dropped by Re 1 and traded at 1,571 with an open interest of 6,690 lots.

The grain had touched a high at Rs 1,572 a quintal earlier in the day.

October contracts have some support at Rs 1,567 while resistance at Rs 1,575 a quintal.

November contracts traded at Rs 1,590 .

In the spot market, wheat spot prices on the exchange dropped by Rs 15 and traded at Rs 1,550 .

Flour Prices

Following good domestic demand, flour continued to rule firm and quoted at Rs 1,750.

Similarly, Chokar remained unchanged and went for Rs 1,250 a quintal.
