

Date : 25.09.2013



Farmers told to undertake seed farming

KRISHNAGIRI

Farmers were requested to go for production of seedlings in part of their land holdings in an effort to improve the seed bank in the district.

Seed bank

Addressing the farmers at a special mass contact programme held at Ottampatti village under the Pudur Punganai Panchayat in Uthangarai taluk on Tuesday, S. Radhakrishnan, Joint Director, Agriculture Department told the farmers to go for production of seedlings of paddy, millets and dal, so as to improve the seed bank here.

Rain fed crops

According to the officials, during the onset of monsoon, farmers were able to sow rain fed crops such as ragi, kambu, samai and so on.

Out of the total paddy cultivated area of 2200 hectares in Uthangarai taluk, the farmers started cultivating paddy in 216 acres.

The remaining area would be covered shortly as and when there is availability of water, the officials added.

Welfare schemes

District level officials of animal husbandry, sericulture, social welfare and other departments explained in detail about the welfare schemes being implemented by the government for the welfare of the people at the programme.

T. Rudrappa, Lead District Manager; Major (retired) M. Muthuram, Assistant Director, Office of the District Ex-Servicemen Welfare and K. Uma Maheshwari, District Social Welfare Officer among others participated in the programme.

Farmers' grievances day on Sept. 27

DHARMAPURI

The monthly farmers' grievances day will be held on September 27 at the meeting hall of the Collectorate at 11.30 a.m.

According to a release, Collector K. Vivekanandan will preside over the meeting. Farmers and their representatives are requested to participate and get their grievances redressed.

Mettur level

TIRUCHI

The water level in Mettur dam stood at 107.47 feet on Tuesday against its full reservoir level of 120 feet. The inflow was 17,668 cusecs and the discharge 20,009 cusecs.

Farmers throng Information Department stall at Krishi Mela

DHARWAD

The dissemination of information to farmers was one of the prime objectives of the Krishi Mela organised by University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad, here from Saturday to Tuesday. The Department of Information did a handy job by setting up a stall with this aim.

Among the scores of stalls set up at the Krishi Mela, the department's stall caught everyone's attention. The stall had been designed in the form of a village house set in a rural ambience.

The Department personnel who were available for interaction provided information on various Government departments, their functioning and welfare schemes. The department has brought out a colourful booklet containing information on government welfare schemes for farmers and village residents. Senior Assistant Director C.P. Mayachari and his team provided information about different departments under a single roof.

Several farmers from nearby villages said they had come to know about many schemes meant for them. It helps to stake our claims with officials, said some of the farmers who visited the stall.

Women farmers churn out profits from small holdings

MACHILIPATNAM

Turn their patches of land into vegetable fields and make money round the year



A farmer family works in the bitter gourd field at Pilarichettipalem village in Krishna district .—Photo: T. Appala Naidu
Women have turned into successful farmers by developing their small holdings that were not viable to grow paddy into vegetable fields and making money round the year at Pilarichettipalem of Machilipatnam rural mandal in Krishna District.

Among the 40 women farmers engaged in producing a dozen varieties of vegetables, including leaf vegetables, most of them are landless who entered into tenancy in recent times.

Men help out

“Earlier the small holdings, not exceeding 5 cents in and around the village, were either left without any cultivation or used for cattle ground. Now, the average monthly profit has touched to Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000 on these fields,” P. Krishna Kumari, who raises bitter gourd told *The Hindu*.

The women grow vegetables such as bitter gourd, ladyfinger, drumstick, green chilli to amaranth and sorrel leaves based on the weather conditions. At a distance of barely 5 km from the Krishna District headquarters, Machilipatnam, the men from these families join hands to take the produce to the market and sell at remunerative prices.

“The practice is merely to generate additional income for the family and not to lose the benefit from the fertile soil. It is clearly evident that major crops cannot be raised on these holdings due to rising input cost and thus vegetable farming has been proved viable and lucrative,” said another farmer, Yelagani Nagamani, a regular worker in the imitation jewellery industry.

Like Nagamani, every woman active in vegetable farming also had an additional source of income from cattle rearing too. Having gained experience, a clear competition exists among the women farmers on how best one can be innovative.

After the village witnessed a tremendous change brought by the women farmers, there were hardly any small holdings readily available to newcomers for farming.

“The tenancy rates have also gone up to Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,000 per year on any given small land in the village, witnessing a huge demand for them,” said other farmers.

Training programme on cotton growing begins at ANGRAU

HYDERABAD

An international training programme on ‘Field oriented training on production of cotton’ was inaugurated at Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University here and participants from various African countries will gain an insight into cotton production at the 45-day training programme.

Minister for Agriculture Kanna Lakshmi Narayana, who inaugurated the programme, said the State’s experience in cotton growing and the best practices will help the participants.

He reminded the audience that the State was third in cotton production in the country after Maharashtra and Gujarat.

ANGRAU Vice-Chancellor A. Padma Raju, D. Jagannadha Raju, Director, EEI; Anupam Barik, Additional Commissioner (Crops), Government of India and; Virendra Singh, Additional Commissioner (Extension); also spoke.

A.P. ranks third in cotton production in the country after Maharashtra and Gujarat

Farm technology week gets under way

SHIMOGA



Food for thought: Farmers flocking to the stalls put up as part of the Agriculture Technology Week in Shimoga on Tuesday.— Photo: VAIDYA

Farm technology week-2013, an initiative of University of Agriculture and Horticulture Sciences, Shimoga, and Indian Council for Agriculture Research to create awareness among the farmers on modern agriculture practices, commenced at Krishi Vijnana Kendra in Navile near here on Tuesday.

Lectures and demonstrations on farm mechanisation, integrated pest management practices, animal husbandry, processing and packing of food products will be held till September 28 as part of the programme.

P.M. Salimath, Special Officer of University of Agriculture and Horticulture Sciences, Shimoga, who inaugurated the programme called upon the farmers to adopt modern agriculture practices to enhance their income.

Owing to the hesitation by the farmers to adopt modern agriculture practices, the average yield per acre of land was low in India compared to European nations. The food grains are being imported by paying huge sum of money at present.

It is necessary to popularise the high yield varieties of seeds, scientific pest management practices, usage of machines for operations like transplantation, removal of weeds, he said.

Extension Director of the university M.S. Ganesh Babu was present.

Horticulture Research Centre to come up in East Godavari

RAJAHMUNDRY



Pulla Veera Venkata Rao, vice-president, All India Nurserymen Association, receiving appreciation certificate from East Godavari Collector Neetu Prasad.

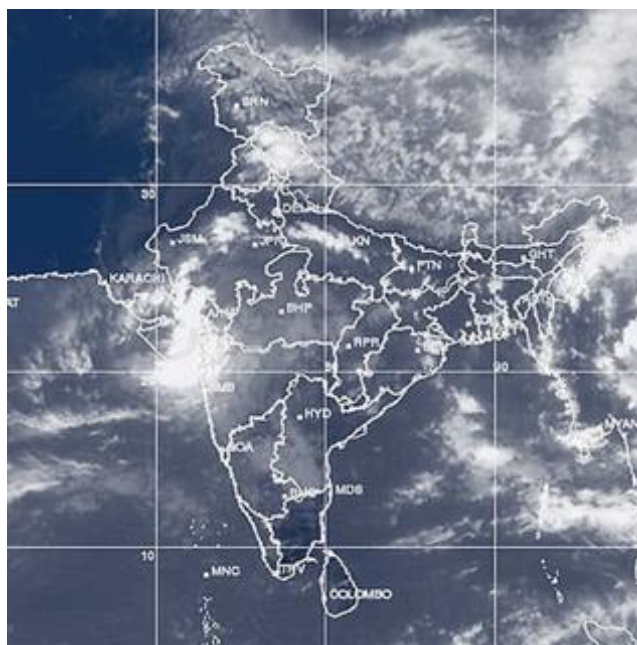
In response to a news item published in *The Hindu*, District Collector Neetu Prasad said on Tuesday that the government sanctioned Horticulture Research Centre for the district. The district administration has located Ramachandrapuram as a convenient place to develop Kadiyam nurseries, horticulture and related farming in the entire coastal region.

After meeting Pulla Veera Venkata Rao, national vice-president of All India Nurserymen Association (AINA) at her camp office in Kakinada, Ms. Neetu Prasad also said that the district administration had already identified 50 acres of land in Kadiyam to establish Agriculture University which was sanctioned recently.

While congratulating Mr. Venkata Rao on getting the Best Nurseryman Award at national level during Vibrant Gujarat-2013 summit, the Collector said that Mr. Rao made the district as well as the thousands of nursery farmers proud by getting the award.

weather

NEW DELHI



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on September 24th.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	35	27	0	582
New Delhi (Sfd)	35	26	0	815
Chandigarh	34	27	0	835
Hissar	34	25	0	602
Bhuntar	33	19	2	410
Shimla	24	16	0	864
Jammu	34	24	0	1251
Srinagar	30	14	0	249
Amritsar	35	25	0	761
Patiala	34	27	tr	738
Jaipur	33	26	0	693
Udaipur	31	23	21	706
Allahabad	35	27	0	994
Lucknow	36	25	0	734
Varanasi	35	27	0	756
Dehradun	33	23	0	2827
Agartala	34	24	24	863
Ahmedabad	31	23	27	821
Bangalore	29	19	0	693
Bhubaneshwar	33	26	0	914
Bhopal	27	22	1	1152

Chennai	35	26	0	635
Guwahati	37	25	0	744
Hyderabad	31	21	0	680
Kolkata	35	28	0	1606
Mumbai	31	25	14	2285
Nagpur	28	23	0	1442
Patna	36	27	0	609
Pune	28	21	1	752
Thiruvananthapuram	32	24	0	1066
Imphal	33	23	0	1038
Shillong	25	17	1	941

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

South-west-monsoon has been vigorous in east Rajasthan. The withdrawal line of South-west-monsoon continues to pass through Kalpa, Hissar, Jodhpur and Nalia.

Rainfall: Rain/thundershowers have occurred at many places over east Rajasthan and at isolated places over Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, west Rajasthan and east Uttar Pradesh. Weather was mainly dry over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm. are: PUNJAB: Hoshiarpur 1, EAST RAJASTHAN: (5 cm. and above) Badesar 9, Chittoregarh 7 and Garhi, Shergarh, Bhainsroadgarh, Dungla, Kota A.P. and Mount Abu 5 each and WEST RAJASTHAN: Garda road, Erinpura road and Sumerpur 3 each, Pokhran 2 and Luni, Bali and Raipur 1 each. FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 26th SEPTEMBER 2013 : Rain/thundershowers may occur at many places over east Rajasthan during next 24 hours and decrease thereafter. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, west-Rajasthan and west-Uttar Pradesh. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir during next 24 hours and mainly dry weather thereafter. Rain/thundershowers may occur at a few places over east-Uttar Pradesh.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 26th SEPTEMBER 2013: Partly cloudy sky. Very light rain/thundershowers could occur in some areas.

Kharif rice output projected to drop to 92.32 mn tonnes: Govt

NEW DELHI



A farmer tills the land kharif season in this file photo.

But total foodgrain output was estimated at 128.20 million tonnes

Country's rice production is projected to drop to 92.32 million tonnes in the kharif season this year due to deficient rains in some states, but the overall foodgrain output is estimated to rise marginally to 129.32 million tonnes in the same period.

The rice production stood at 92.76 million tonnes in the kharif (summer) season of the 2012-13 crop year (June-July), while total foodgrain output was estimated at 128.20 million tonnes.

"As per the first advance estimate for kharif season of 2013-14, rice production is estimated at 92.32 million tonnes in the kharif season of this year," Agriculture Commissioner J S Sandhu said at the national conference on rabi (winter) crops.

The estimate for rice output is kept lower as deficient rains in Bihar, Jharkhand and North East have affected the kharif crops, he said.

Also, the flood situations in Assam, Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have an impact on the kharif crops, he added.

Mr Sandhu said, however, maize production is projected to increase to 17.78 million tonnes in the kharif season of this year, against 16.04 million tonnes in the year-ago period.

Pulses production is also estimated to rise to 6.01 million tonnes from 5.91 million tonnes in the review period.

Whereas millet production is forecast at 13.21 million tonnes in the kharif season of this year, he said.

Sowing of kharif crops begin with the onset of southwest monsoon from June, while harvesting starts from October.

According to Indian Meteorological Department, the 53 per cent of the country received normal monsoon. One-third of the country received excess rains.

Monsoon has withdrawn from western and northern regions of the country. Early withdrawal of monsoon has created heat stress in central parts of the country, Mr Sandhu added.

The Agriculture Ministry releases production estimates at different stages of crop.

Interface programme

DAVANGERE

Taralabalu Krishi Vigyan Kendra (TKVK) in association with Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod has organised an agriculture scientists-farmers' extension interface programme on coconut and areca nut on September 25 on the TKVK campus. Devaraj, Director of TKVK, said in a statement that the aim of the programme is to create awareness about the technological options available and to enhance profitability of coconut and areca nut farming

Krishi Mela ends, sees brisk sales

DHARWAD

The estimated turnout was 11.8 lakh, say authorities

The four-day Krishi Mela held on the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) – Dharwad premises here concluded on Tuesday.

The estimated turnout during the mela was 11.8 lakh according to UAS authorities. Likewise, 1,200 quintals of rabi crop seeds worth Rs. 52 lakh were sold and 4,000 farmers visited the consultancy cell to seek solutions for agriculture-related problems.

The maximum consultancies were on plant protection, followed by agronomy and horticulture crops, they said.

The major attraction for the public was stalls selling varieties of consumer goods. Brisk business was seen at stalls selling home-made condiments and processed meals. University of Horticulture-Bagalkot, have introduced a new papaya jam. Similarly, the stall of KRC College of Horticulture-Arabhavi, witnessed brisk sale of mango juice and other beverages.

Theme

The theme of this year's Krishi Mela was 'water conservation for food security' and it focussed on sensitising farmers regarding the need for conservation of water bodies. The farmers interacted with experts on these issues and got their queries answered at the technical session. The university had invited water conservationist and Magsaysay award winner Rajendra Singh, who delivered a thought-provoking talk on water conservation and the role of farmers.

Salination issue

Another key issue discussed on the occasion was the problem of salination which has emerged as a major threat to the farm sector in this part of the State. The experts advised the farmers on how salination can be prevented and saline lands can be reclaimed by taking corrective measures.

Progressive farmer Dakanagoudar Danagoudar from Gadag explained how he set up dairy farming and reclaimed the saline lands.

THE  NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

Onion wholesale prices down Rs 5/kg; retail rates still high

Wholesale prices of onion today declined by Rs 5 at Rs 40-45 per kg, although retail rates continued to rule at the uncomfortable level of Rs 60-70 a kilo.

Arrival of new crop of the kitchen staple from Karnataka and increase in imports led to the fall in prices. Around 600 tonne onion is expected to reach Mumbai next week.

As per National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) data, onion arrivals at the Bangalore mandi have increased to 71,000 quintal today, from last week's level of 51,000 quintal.

"Onion supply has been increasing in last few days at the mandi which has brought the prices down by Rs 5 per kg at Rs 40-45 per kg," Onion Merchant Traders Association President Surendra Budhiraj said.

Meanwhile, co-operative major NAFED held a meeting yesterday in Mumbai with importers to resolve various issues while clearing the imported stock of onion arriving at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai.

Despite a fall in the prices of edible bulb at wholesale market, onions were continued to sell at Rs 60-70 per kg in the retail markets. Mother Dairy, meanwhile, is selling onions at Rs 62-64 per kilo, according to an official. Traders added that fall in the prices of onion at the wholesale market will be visible in a day or two at the retail markets also. However prices of the politically sensitive commodity at Lasalgaon Mandi in Nashik which sets the price trend across the country rose by Rs 3 at Rs 50 per kg, according to NHRDF data.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Wednesday, Sep 25

Max 33° | Min 27°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 79

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 05:57

Sunset: 06:03

Barometer: 1010

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Sep 26

Max 35° | Min 26°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday Sep 27	Saturday Sep 28	Sunday Sep 29	Monday Sep 30	Tuesday Oct 1
34° 25°	35° 26°	37° 26°	37° 26°	37° 26°
Partly Cloudy	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast	Overcast

Airport Weather

Delhi

Rain: 0 Sunrise: 06:10

Humidity: 74 Sunset: 06:14

Wind: normal Barometer: 1008



THE ECONOMIC TIMES

India to seek support for food security proposal at WTO

NEW DELHI



India has objected to some of the clauses in the trade facilitation agreement and sought support for the developing countries' food security proposal at the WTO.

India has objected to some of the clauses in the trade facilitation agreement and sought support for the developing countries' food security proposal at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Senior officials from WTO member countries are in Geneva to prepare the ground for the forthcoming Bali ministerial meeting.

"There are certain things that we cannot do and even the developed world knows we cannot concede on those," said a commerce department official.

Trade facilitation measures require countries to improve infrastructure at borders, standardise procedures and rules and cut red tape to allow seamless trade.

New Delhi is averse to some provisions due to the high cost of compliance and requirement of additional infrastructure and investment obligations that some countries may not have the capacity to meet.

India has also opposed the condition of keeping adequate time gap between the publication of

new or amended tariffs and their coming into effect. Decisions on tariffs are part of the Finance Bill and announced in the budget for immediate implementation.

The country, however, has extended support proposals on customs cooperation and mandatory return of the rejected consignment to the exporter, instead of the current practice of destroying goods at EU ports.

In the latest rounds of talks, India has also made it amply clear that if there is no forward movement on G-33 nations food security proposal, trade facilitation would also not move.

The G-33 proposal wants subsidies, which are a part of the procurement for public stockholding for poor and marginal farmers, to not be regarded as a prohibited subsidy by the WTO.

"Our proposal serves the dual purpose of buying from resource poor farmers and providing food security to our people. Since the US and the EU are continuing to give out billions in the form of farm subsidies that they had committed to do away with in the Doha round, our demand is totally justified," the commerce ministry official added.

India may achieve 2nd highest foodgrain output this kharif

NEW DELHI



India is likely to achieve the second highest foodgrain production at 129.32 million tonnes this kharif season on better monsoon

India is likely to achieve the second highest foodgrain production at 129.32 million tonnes this kharif season (summer crops) on better monsoon, but rice output is seen declining marginally.

Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar said a record foodgrain production is expected in full 2013-14 crop year on account of good rain and "there will be a rebound in agriculture growth" from 1.9 per cent in the last financial year.

An improvement in the agriculture sector is vital for the government to contain food inflation and boost economic growth rate, which was a mere 4.4 per cent in the first quarter 2013-14, ahead of 2014 general elections in May next year.

Releasing the first forecast of foodgrain production in the kharif season, Pawar said: "We are poised to produce 129.32 million tonnes this kharif. This will be the second highest production."

Foodgrain output had touched all-time record of 131.27 million tonnes in the kharif season of 2011-12. It, however, fell to 128.20 million tonnes last year due to drought.

Higher levels of production in pulses and coarse cereals are projected to lift the overall kharif foodgrain output, while cotton and oilseeds production are set to be at all-time record levels.

Noting that the current year has been good for the farm sector, Pawar said: "With favourable weather condition, I am confident that kharif production will be substantially higher than what has been estimated at present.

"And there will be highest foodgrain production in the entire 2013-14 crop year (June-July). Definitely, there will be a rebound in agriculture growth."

Pawar also advocated use of new farm technologies, including GM crops, to sustain growth in the farm sector and meet extra foodgrain requirement under the food law.

According to the first estimates, rice production is expected to drop marginally to 92.32 million

tonnes this kharif due to deficient rain in rice-growing eastern states. Last kharif, rice output was 92.76 million tonnes.

Sowing in kharif season begins with the onset of southwest monsoon in June and the harvesting starts from October.

Haryana to continue to charge market fee and Haryana Rural Development Fund on cotton at a reduced rate

NEW DELHI

The Haryana Government has decided to continue to charge both market fee and Haryana Rural Development Fund(HRDF) on cotton at a reduced rate of 0.8 per cent each for the year financial 2013-14.

A decision to this effect was taken in a meeting held by Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda with the delegation of cotton and ginners association.

Mr Hooda said that this fee reduction should be given only for those stocks that are corroborated by web based gate pass and the millers could themselves download from the web. He made it clear that in case any trader or ginner is caught evading market fee and HRDF, the same may be recovered from such trader or ginner for the entire season at the rate of two per cent each.

The rate of levy of market fee on cotton and HRDF was reduced from 4 % (2 % each) to 1.6 %(0.8 % each) for the season 2011-12. The government had also extended this fee structure for the year 2012-13.

The representatives of cotton and ginners association said that that they would achieve the target of 135 lakh quintals of cotton as against the current arrival of 120.78 lakh quintals.

Kharif 2013 pulses harvest touches 7 million tonne

KOLKATA



India's pulses harvest for the Kharif 2013 season has touched 7 million tonne (as compared to 5.9 million tonne in 2012 and, as per the latest report of Weather Watch Group in Agriculture Ministry, the acreage planted to pulses has touched 10.2 million hectares (as compared to 8.8 million hectares in 2012.

Mr. Pravin Dongre, Chairman - India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) speaking about the kharif harvest said, "The overall agricultural production scenario is extremely positive. In addition to the excellent monsoon, the Government's decision to hike the MSP has helped assure remunerative farm-gate prices. The 7 million tons harvest also makes a case for opening up pulses export even if on a limited scale."

The MSP (per quintal) for Tur / Arhar has increased from Rs. 3200 in 2011 to Rs. 4300 in 2013, Urad from Rs. 3300 in 2011 to Rs. 4300 in 2013 and Moong from Rs. 3500 in 2011 to Rs. 4500. Similarly, pulse wise planted area has seen growth from last year as Tur/ Arhar increased from 26.7 lakh hectares (LT) in 2012 to 32.7 lakh hectares, Urad from 16.6 LT to 18.6 LT and Moong from 12.2 LT to 18.2 LT.

The southwest monsoon has performed well with 8% excess rainfall as on Sept. 4th. Out of 36 meteorological subdivisions, as many as 30 have received excess to normal rainfall. In

particular, agriculturally important States of UP, MP, PN, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have enjoyed more than normal rainfall. According to India Meteorological Department, rainfall is expected to be normal for the rest of the season ending September.

India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the country's apex body of pulses and grains industry & trade, is hosting THE PULSES CONCLAVE 2014, the second edition of their conclave for the global pulses industry and trade from February 19th to 21st, 2014 at the Grand Hyatt in Goa. The Pulses Conclave 2014, supported by the Government of India, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

Onion prices may come down sharply in next 10-15 days: Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar

NEW DELHI



Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar today said onion prices are expected to fall sharply in the next 10-15 days, which may give relief to consumers.

Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar today said onion prices are expected to fall sharply in the next 10-15 days, which may give relief to consumers. "I am absolutely confident that in the next 10-15 days, I will start getting brief from farmers that prices have fallen sharply," Pawar told reporters on the sidelines of an event. Onion prices both in the wholesale and retail markets have remained at an unaffordable level since July due to seasonal shortages. Onions continue to be available at Rs 60-70 per kg in most retail markets despite a falling trend in some wholesale markets.

Pawar said the prices have shot up despite substantial increase in onion production to over 17 million tonnes (MT) in 2012-13 from 9.5 MT in 2005. However, the falling trend in onion prices will begin from month-end on improved supplies, he said. "Arrival in some states has started. I think by end of this month, the process of price coming down will start." Improved supply of imported onions and fresh arrival of crop would improve availability and control prices, he said. The government has been taking several measures to boost domestic supplies. It has restricted exports by raising minimum export price to USD 900 a tonne and opened imports. About 600 tonnes of onions are expected reach Mumbai port next week.

Consumption in India to touch 1 lakh tonne: Global coffee body

KOCHI



ICO has estimated consumption in India to be well over a lakh tonne, contradicting the US Department of Agriculture's figure of 66,000 tonne issued recently.

International Coffee Organisation(ICO) has estimated consumption in India to be well over a lakh tonne, contradicting the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) figure of 66,000 tonne issued recently.

In its monthly report for August, ICO has stated that while consumption has shown a marginal increase in traditional markets like the US and the European Union, growth is dynamic in exporting countries like Brazil, Indonesia and India. Indian consumption has grown by 4.8% to 1.9 million bags (1.14 lakh tonne) in 2012, according to ICO.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Farmers demand water for irrigation

ALLAHABAD

Farmers from more than 50 villages of Manda block held a demonstration at the office of divisional commissioner on Tuesday. They raised the problem of water crisis for irrigation purpose and demanded releasing of water from Sirsi Dam to Upraha minor dam. The demonstrators handed over a memorandum to the commissioner.

The farmers alleged that their crop is on the verge of destruction in the absence of water for irrigation. The same problem cropped up in December last year also but the water was ultimately released from the Sirsi Dam after an agitation by them.

Leading the farmers, national co-convenor of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) panchayati raj cell, Yogesh Shukla said that some villages in Koraon assembly constituency are also under the grip of severe water crisis due to drying up of Adwa Dam and inadequate water in Sukhda minor dam. Besides, the lift pump canal constructed on Belan river has not yet become functional.

Trans-Yamuna area is also not getting adequate power supply over the last few months. The power department is yet to replace transformers which were damaged. This has aggravated the problem, Shukla said.

Kisan Mahapanchayat was held at Hata in Upraudh area on Monday where it was decided to gherao the divisional commissioner.

The divisional commissioner assured to look into the matter and get water released into the Upraha Dam soon.

Milk co-operative to distribute Rs 40 crore among members

KOLHAPUR

The Kolhapur district cooperativemilk producing federation will distribute Rs 40 crore among its milk producing members as the final rate of procurement, a statement issued by the federation has said. The amount is the net profit earned by the federation, which it distributes among its members as an annual exercise.

Chairman Arun Dongale has said in the statement that the federation buys milk from primary milk collection societies, which work as collection centres for the federation. It fixes a rate for procurement - for instance Rs 20 per litre - and the amount is distributed among the milk producers three times a month. The milk is later processed and sold in the markets such as Mumbai, Pune and Kolhapur. The net profit earned by the federation is disbursed among milk producers every year.

The money will be disbursed among 4,500 primary milk societies in the rural parts of the district and in some parts of Karnataka. There are some five lakh individual producers who supply milk to the federation. The buffalo milk producers will get an additional Rs 1.75 per litre over the fixed price, while cow milk producers will get Rs 0.85 per litre. The amount accumulated from April to September will be disbursed with interest at the rate of 6%, the statement said.

The federation, with an annual turnover of Rs 1,300 crore, is one of the biggest in the state. It had disbursed Rs 43 crore last year, as it was its golden jubilee year.

Farmers demand permission to produce ethanol from sugarcane

KOLHAPUR

Farmer leaders on Tuesday stepped up their demand for permission to tillers to produce ethanol from sugarcane they produce and sell the byproducts.

"The Centre has permitted to blend only five per cent ethanol into petrol, while countries like Brazil and the US are looking towards ethanol as an option for petrol and diesel. There are

industries in Maharashtra that export the machinery required to set up industrial units that produce ethanol," said peasant leader Raghunathdada Patil .

He was addressing a statewide conference on ethanol held in the city. The meeting was organized by the Shtakari Sanghatana faction of Sharad Joshi and Raghunathdada Patil and Biodiesel Shetakri Sanghatana of Shamrao Desai.

"The fovernment permits to set up such plants but does not allow us to use the technology. Our demand is simple. We have surplus production of sugarcane, which results into surplus sugar. The government should ensure that the price of sugar should not come down in the market because of excess production. If the government allow us to use surplus sugarcane and produce ethanol, both the issues of market price of sugar and the minimum support price (MSP) of the cane can be resolved as ethanol production will give more money to the farmers," said Raghunathdada.

"Like solar and wind energy, ethanol is also an energy product produced from a natural source and should come under the renewable energy department and not the petroleum department. Considering it a biodiesel, ethanol should be brought under the purview of the agricultural department and norms related to these departments should be applied to ethanol", he said.

Shamrao Desai, president of the Biodiesel Shetkari Sanghatana, said, "From one tonne of sugarcane crop, the government earns Rs 3,550 through various taxes and cess imposed on cane production and its byproducts and the farmers get Rs 2500 from factories. If we produce ethanol directly from cane, the government will lose this amount. This is the main reason that the farmers are not allowed to produce ethanol from sugarcane."

He added, "There are around 170 sugar factories and 250 distilleries in Maharashtra. But only 17 factories produce ethanol from molasses, the sugarcane by product. If the government permits all the factories to produce ethanol, we could save crores of rupees spent on import of petrol."

Shantakumar Kurgur, a farmers' leader from Karnataka, who attended the conference, said, "All

farmers from India should unite and fight for the demand. We can convince the government to allow production of ethanol by putting pressure on it."

It was also decided to organize a sugarcane conference in Satara on October 6 to raise the demand of the rate of Rs 3,500 per tonne for this year's crushing season from sugar factories.

Farmers urge for speedy disbursal of crop loans

MADURAI

Farmers in Madurai district have urged the administration to take measures to disburse the crop loans faster as the water for single crop areas is expected to be released from Wednesday. The farmers, who claimed that they are severely affected by the cash crunch, said that the primary agricultural cooperative banks (PACB) are reluctant to disburse the cash part of the crop loans. Instead, they are distributing fertilisers, which are of no use to them at present. The farmers also stated that they may be forced to sell the fertilisers in the open market to make money for ploughing and cultivation work in their fields.

From the crop loan of Rs 16,000 per acre, the PACBs give Rs 10,000 as cash, Rs 4,000 worth fertilisers, Rs 1,000 worth pesticides and Rs 1,000 worth seeds. But the farmers demanded the cash part of the loan to be given away to them first so that they can carry out the preliminary works in the fields for cultivation.

K Devaraj, president of Small Farmers Association raised the issue during the farmers grievance redressal day meeting held recently where he said that the farmers are hit by cash crunch because of the severe drought last year. "We need money to plough the fields and raise nurseries but the banks are giving fertilisers. It will not serve any purpose because we don't want fertilisers at present," he pointed out. Singaravelan, a farmer from Melur said that the fertilisers are stocked in the banks ahead of agricultural activities, exposing them to weather conditions. Instead of giving money, the banks are forcing fertilisers on us, he rued.

The farmers also criticised the approach of the cooperative department which restricted the new crop loans to 30% against the returns of the existing loans. "Such approach cripples the farming activities since many of the farmers cannot avail any new loans. At this juncture, we cannot

carry out agriculture without crop loans", Devaraj stressed. District collector, L Subramanian instructed the cooperative officials to give away the cash portion of the crop loans first and distribute the fertilisers and other inputs later.

Meanwhile, the water for single crop irrigation will be released from Vaigai dam on Wednesday. Public works department sources in Madurai said that PWD minister, K V Ramalingam would be present for the event. The water released from the dam will irrigate 1.5 lakh acres of single crop areas in Madurai, Dindigul and Sivaganga districts. However the farmers pointed out that the most of the branch channels in the region are not cleaned ahead of the release which may affect the flow of the water to tail-end areas.

Onion supply up, prices set to fall

PUNE

Consumers can expect onions prices to come down in the next two or three days. Traders say that a good supply has been reaching the city which has helped keep a tab on the wholesale prices. If the trend continues, the retail prices should come down too, they said. On Tuesday, the wholesale market rate of the new crop hovered in the range of Rs 250-Rs 350 per 10 kg while the old variety commanded a price of Rs 450 to Rs 500 -- still on the higher side, but lower than the rates that prevailed just a few days ago.

More than 40 truckloads of onion reached the city on Tuesday while 65 more arrived on Monday. Last week, the supply had come down to less than 20 trucks, as a result the price shot to Rs 70 per kg in the wholesale market. Ritesh Poman, a wholesale trader, expects an immediate price correction. "Four trucks came from Karnataka on Monday. This will definitely give relief to consumers," he said.

Sanjiv Khadke, administrator of the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee at Gultekdi, said, "It's all about the forces of demand and supply. We have been getting a good supply in the last few days, which should translate into prices going down."

Anu Kardale, a retailer in Kalyaninagar, said on Tuesday, "I buy onion in bulk from the wholesale market, so managed to procure the new variety of onions at Rs 20 per kilo and the old and dry one for almost Rs 40 per kilo. The benefit will be passed on to the customers."

THE HINDU Business Line

US panel decision on shrimp vindicates our stand, say seafood exporters



The Seafood Exporters' Association of India (SEAI) has said the seafood industry always competed in the foreign markets with fair practices and that the decision of the International Trade Commission (ITC) of the US government to lift the countervailing duty imposed on Indian shrimps underlined it.

Referring to the ITC decision, announced on Friday, Elias Sait, Secretary-General of SEAI, said that the imposition of duty by the US Department of Commerce was 'unjustified and highly unfair.'

He said the association had taken an aggressive position on its defence and hired reputed US analysts to present before the ITC data relating to shrimp imports in the US, American shrimp industry operations, and other fundamental issues.

"Armed with these incisive analyses, the counsel for India, Ecuador and Vietnam took the lead and collectively presented the defence to demonstrate to the commission that there was no material injury or threat thereof to the US domestic industry," he pointed out.

The Union Commerce Ministry and the Marine Products Exports Development Authority had amply supported the SEAI in its defence.

The US Department of Commerce had nine months back decided to impose the countervailing duty on shrimps imported from India and six other countries.

This was on the basis of its preliminary investigation into the allegation by a lobbying group of the US shrimp industry that shrimp industry in these seven countries received subsidies from their respective governments.

These subsidies had, it argued, constituted undue advantage that hurt the US domestic shrimp industry's capacity to compete on a level-playing field.

Pepper steady on limited activity

Pepper futures ruled steady on limited activities with the running contract declining marginally while the nearbys moved up slightly.

Arrivals remained very thin as there were no sellers at the current levels in the declining spot market. Upcountry demand was also slack.

However, North Indian demand was claimed to be met by supplies from Karnataka at Rs 400-405 a kg delivered anywhere in India on cash-and-carry basis, market sources told *Business Line*.

Meanwhile, rumours were also being spread that the next crop is going to be much less. On the NMCE, Oct contract decreased by Rs 72 to Rs 43,050 a quintal. Nov and Dec contracts moved up by Rs 27 and Rs 10 respectively to Rs 43,225 and Rs 43,510 a quintal. Total open interest went up by four tonnes to 36 tonnes. Total turn over dropped by two tonnes to 31 tonnes. Spot prices stayed unchanged at previous levels of Rs 40,200 (ungarbled) and ,200 (garbled) a quintal on limited activities. Indian parity in the international market remained unchanged at \$7,200 (c&f) Europe and \$7,450 a tonne (c&f) for the US.

Prices steady as stockists stay away from sugar market

Sugar market remained calm with steady price for third consecutive day. Continuous selling by mills and a dip in demand in month-end kept volatility low.

Prices in other producing centres ruled at par with Maharashtra resulting in the absence of upcountry buying. The volume remained routine as market had sufficient stocks, said sources.

A Vashi-based wholesaler told *Business Line*, "slack local demand and continuous supply from mills kept bulk buying away.

Stockists continued to follow need-based fresh purchase. Vashi market currently carries more than 125 truck loads (of 100 bags each) and demand will be poor till month-end." Arrivals on the Vashi market were 61-62 truck loads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 59-60 truck loads. On Monday, 15-16 mills offered tenders and sold 48,000-50,000 bags at Rs 2,840-2,930 (Rs 2,840-2,930) for S-grade and Rs 2,950-3,020 (Rs 2,950-3,020) for M-grade.

Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 3,002-3,125 (Rs 3,002-3,125) and M-grade Rs 3,141-3,282 (Rs 3,141-3,282).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,930-3,000 (Rs 2,930-3,000) and M-grade Rs 3,040-3,170 (Rs 3,040-3,170).

Guargum, seed price surge: FMC set to impose Rs 100-cr penalty on cartel



The Forward Markets Commission (FMC) is set to impose a penalty of Rs 100 crore on a cartel which has been found to be behind the surge in guarseed and guargum prices on futures exchanges to record high last year.

Guargum prices had soared to over Rs 1 lakh a quintal and guarseed to over Rs 30,000 in March last year, forcing the commission, which regulates commodities markets in the country, to suspend futures in both.

An official of the FMC said that the Government will be taking action based on a report submitted to the Consumer Affairs Ministry in October last year, on the unusual price movement.

The report had found fault with at least 45 traders.

Responding to question on the report, the official, who did not wish to be identified, said: "The Government is taking action on the report. Notices have been issued and soon, Rs 100 crore penalty will be imposed on the cartel found to be behind this."

The official, however, refused to provide details of the cartel. In May last year, the FMC penalised nine commodity brokerages, including Angel Commodities, Kotak Commodities, Reliance Commodities and Karvy Comtrade, for violating rules in collecting margin money from traders punting on guar gum futures.

Guar or cluster beans, a leguminous crop, is primarily grown in Rajasthan, besides Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Rajasthan accounts for over 70 per cent of the total crop in the country.

Guarseed is a raw material for producing guar gum.

Guar gum is used as a thickening agent and additive in food products such as instant soups, sauces, processed meat products, baked goods, milk and cheese products, yoghurt and ice-creams.

It has industrial applications in the paper and textile sectors, ore flotation, explosives manufacture and fracturing of oil and gas formations.

Currently, guar gum is in demand for fracking of shale gas, particularly in the US that accounts for 25 per cent of the world trade.

Guarseed and guar gum prices had run to record high early last year despite the FMC imposing additional margins; investors had to pay at least Rs 15 lakh to take positions in guar gum.

Then, investors had justified the surge, pointing out to Government data on exports of guar gum.

Initially, the data showed 70 per cent increase in guar gum exports in the first half of 2011-12 fiscal.

The data were revised later by the Government since the industry pointed out that the crop figures and export data of guar gum didn't match.

Meanwhile, prices of guarseed and guar gum which began to rise early this month on reports of dryness in the growing areas have dropped by 25 per cent on Tuesday.

This follows the FMC directive to the futures exchanges to scrutinise the sudden spurt from August 12.

On Sunday, the FMC Chairman Ramesh Abhishek said on the sidelines of a meet in Mumbai that prices of guarseed and guar gum futures, which resumed in May this year, have begun to drop after he asked the futures exchanges to probe the accounts of their top 25 clients.

"We sought details on hedgers, buyers and sellers in guar (seed and gum) within 15 days. A big cartel seems to be funding the rise through some participants. We have asked exchanges to try and find out the source of funds from these participants. The exchange will penalise the members found guilty," the chairman said.

Guarseed and guar gum futures resumed from May 14, following the commission's go-ahead.

Guarseed contracts, which are to be delivered in October, opened at Rs 7,730 a quintal on May 14 and dropped to Rs 4,040 on August 12 on speculation that guar production could be a record

this year on bountiful monsoon rains. Guar gum contracts for the same month during the same time, dropped to Rs 11,430 a quintal from Rs 24,500.

On September 12, guarseed prices rose to Rs 7,963 and guar gum to Rs 22,380 after which the commission sought details.

On Tuesday, guaraseed contracts dropped to Rs 5,990 a quintal and guargum contracts to Rs 16,900

Spot rubber falls further

Spot rubber declined further on Tuesday. According to observers, there were no buyers on any grade and the market lost ground, amidst dull volumes.

Major manufacturers continued to stay back, following a favourable turn in weather, to resume tapping.

The gap between the domestic and international prices would narrow down in a couple of weeks once the arrivals improve, an analyst said.

Sheet rubber dropped to Rs 179 (Rs 180) a kg, according to traders. The grade weakened to Rs 180 (Rs 181) at Kottayam and Kochi, as reported by the Rubber Board.

October futures improved to Rs 177.80 (Rs 176.40), November to Rs 176.96 (Rs 176.40) December to Rs 178.50 (Rs 178.32) and January to Rs 180.10 (Rs 179.70) while the February futures, remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) inched up to Rs 166.24 (Rs 166.10) at Bangkok. September futures closed at ¥262.0 (Rs 166.32) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. **Spot rubber rates Rs/kg:** RSS-4: 179 (180); RSS-5: 174 (175); Ungraded: 168 (170); ISNR 20: 168 (169) and Latex 60%: 140 (141).

Syngenta to focus on sustainable farming

Syngenta, the world's largest agricultural chemical company by sales, has drawn a growth plan for next six years with a commitment to ensure sustainable farming.

With shrinking agriculture land and two lakh more mouths to feed every day by 2020, the company has committed to improving the average yield of major crops by 20 per cent without using more land, water or inputs.

Rescuing farmland

It intends to rescue 10 million hectares of farmland from the brink of degradation by improving the fertility and enhancing biodiversity on five million hectares of farm land. Akshaya M. Kamath,

Managing Director, Syngenta India, said the company would handhold about 20 million small farmers, especially in Asia-Pacific region including India and China to increase productivity by 50 per cent using the latest farming techniques.

Besides, he said, 20 million farm workers would be trained globally on safety and ensure fair working condition throughout the entire supply chain.

The company in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute has a new technology PaniPipe which ensures diligent use of water in paddy fields.

The Panipipe, inserted into the ground vertically, allows farmers to monitor water level below the ground, lowering the need to flood paddy field. This has led to 30 per cent saving in water from nearly 5,000 litres used traditionally to produce one kg of rough rice, said Kamath in an interaction.

The savings in water combined with higher yield help farmers increase their returns by more than 30 per cent, he said pointing to proven technology in Punjab.

crop protection

The Pune-headquartered company is creating integrated offers across eight crops, including vegetables, paddy, cereals, sunflower and specialty crops such as grapes, potato, cotton, pulses, soybean, sugar cane and corn.

Assuring quality, Kamath said for every crop protection product that reaches the farmers' field, almost 1,00,000 are tested but discarded because they do not meet efficacy or safety standards.

"We have invested significantly to develop water-efficient technologies, drought-tolerant seeds, and crop protection products and optimised irrigation systems. We have also introduced herbicides that reduce the need for ploughing and improve soil's ability to absorb water," he said.

The unlisted company in India registered 48 per cent increase in profit at Rs 247 crore while revenue grew 16 per cent to Rs 2,616 crore.

South Indian teas rated 'outstanding'

The Golden Jubilee convention of Coonoor Tea Trade Association (CTTA) provided an opportunity for blenders, packeteers and buyers across the nation to taste over 300 cup-varieties of South Indian CTC, orthodox and green teas and interact with manufacturers and auctioneers.

“Buyers from Andhra Pradesh and North India have rated the teas they tasted as ‘outstanding’. To fulfil buyers’ request, we will develop database on secondary and tertiary dealers to prevent adulteration and colouring at retail end. We will take necessary steps to supply adequate quantity of quality tea by unifying growers, manufacturers, auctioneers, traders and exporters”, Tea Board Executive Director R Ambalavanan told *Business Line*.

“We have assured to address issues concerning buyers like blackening of teas, thinner lining and erasing stencilling marks on packaging, sampling deficiency and inadequate volume of high-priced tea”, CTTA Chairman Sunil Goyal noted.

Administered by him, everyone in the assembly held a lit candle and pledged to improve quality to add to South Indian tea’s glory. “As the grades offered for tasting are regular auction tea, not specially manufactured for this session, they reflect our regular quality”, auctioneer Noor Mohammed, who chaired the tasting session, said.

Tea Board’s former Vice Chairman M Bhojarajan sought Board’s subsidy for machinery modernisation.

Traders seek permission to import 2,500 tonnes of onion



Traders and importers have sought permission from NAFED to bring in about 2,500 tonnes of onions from China, Iran, Egypt, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

However, officials said the actual imports could be only around 1,000 tonnes through different ports over the next couple of weeks.

Worried over the rising trend in onion prices across the country, the Government had allowed the import by relaxing some norms relating to the fumigation for a faster clearance.

An estimated 300 tonnes of imported onion have already entered the domestic markets in the recent weeks, while about 600 tonnes are expected in the next two weeks.

“Traders have taken permits to import about 2,500 tonnes. But how much of that will actually come into the country is not known as domestic arrivals are beginning to increase and may force the importers to go slow,” sources said.

The harvest in Nashik, the country's main onion growing region, is set to commence early next month.

With pick-up in arrivals in markets such as Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai, onion prices have eased marginally in the past week.

But in major consuming markets such as Delhi and Mumbai, the average or modal price still hovered over Rs 40 a kg at the wholesale level.

In Delhi, the average wholesale price was Rs 45, while at the retail level, onion continues to sell at over Rs 60.

"Prices will ease in the next couple of weeks on increase in arrivals and imports" said Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar.

Speaking to reporters, Pawar said the demand for onion is going up despite the near doubling of production in the last eight years.

Onion production has increased to 17.4 million tonnes in 2012-13 from 9.5 mt in 2005-06, Pawar said adding that a lot of area was coming under onion in the current year.

Brands' buy supports groundnut, cotton oils



Demand emerged for groundnut oil and cotton oil ahead of the festival season.

According to traders, some stockists and brands entered the market to cater to the festival demand.

Groundnut oil loose was traded at Rs 820-825 for 20 kg, *telia* tin at Rs 1,272-1,273 for 15 kg and 15-kg new tin price stood at Rs 1,465-1,470.

About 2-3 tankers of groundnut oil were traded in Saurashtra.

Cotton oil wash price was at Rs 610-613 for 10 kg while cotton oil new tin remained unchanged at Rs 1,090-1,100 for 15 kg.

About 80-90 tankers of cotton oil were traded here against yesterday's 40-50 tankers.

Traders said that since the past two days brands and stockists are buying edible oil for the festival demand which is likely to come from next month.

Both cotton oil and groundnut oil were up Rs 10 for 15 kg tin on Monday but traders believe that price will not move up much as new crop of groundnut and cotton has started to arrive in the market.

Chana prices to remain range-bound



Amid subdued demand and buying support, chana prices in Indore mandis continue to remain range-bound fluctuating between Rs 3,100 and Rs 3,200 a quintal for sometime now.

On Tuesday, chana (kanta) in local mandis ruled at Rs 3,150 , chana (desi) ruled at Rs 2,900-3,000, Kabuli Bitki Rs 2,900-3,000, while chana (mausmi) ruled at Rs 3,000-3,300.

According to traders, chana prices are expected to remain range-bound between Rs 3,100 and Rs 3,300 amid subdued demand and buying support.

Arrival has been on the lower side on account of fresh spell of rains in the State.

However, on Tuesday, the weather condition comparatively turning better and about 1,000-1,500 bags of dollar chana arrived in local mandis today.

Given adequate domestic stock and expected arrival of imported chana container in the months of October and November, bullish trend appears unlikely . Chana dal (average) was being quoted at Rs 3,500-3,600, chana dal (medium) at Rs 3,700-3,850 , while chana dal (bold) ruled at Rs 3,900-4,150.

Dollar chana ruled flat at Rs 4,200-4,500 amid slack demand even as arrivals rose to 12,000-13,000 bags.

In container also, dollar chana ruled flat amid slack export demand with dollar chana (42/44 count) on Tuesday being quoted at Rs 5,500-25, 44/46 count at Rs 5,300-25, 46/48 count at Rs 5,100-25, 58/60 count at Rs 3,750-25.

Dollar chana (60/62 count) ruled at Rs 3,650-75 a quintal respectively.

Edible oils slip on slack demand



Edible oil market was subdued with routine activities due to reduced demand.

But prices on the Bombay Commodity Exchange showed a rise of Rs 2 and Rs 3 for 10 kg each for palmolein and soyabean refined oil respectively as local refineries have increased their rates tracking weak domestic currency.

The volume remained subdued in resale due to slack demand.

Shailesh Kataria of Riddhi Brokers said, "Sentiment remains calm and cautious due to bearish futures markets and month-end slack physical demand. As stockists have covered enough stocks last week, they kept away from fresh bets. Needy buyers bought about 180-200 tonnes in resale during the day at Rs 567-570 during the day.

Rain in main producing States of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh may delay new arrivals but so far there are no reports of damage to the crops." Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at Rs 575, super palmolein Rs 605 and super deluxe Rs 625, soyabean refined oil Rs 640 and sunflower refined oil Rs 815.

Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 570-575, soyabean refined oil Rs 637 and sunflower refined oil Rs 800.

Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 574, super palmolein Rs 610, soyabean refined oil Rs 637 and sunflower refined oil Rs 815. Gokul lowered rates by Rs 3 to Rs 567 for palmolein.

New soyabean arrivals were 1 lakh bags and its prices were Rs 3,200-50 ex-mandi and Rs 3,425-75 for plant delivery.

Mustard seed arrivals were 78,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,100-3,600.

Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's October -contracts settled lower at MYR 2,311 (MYR 2,316), November at MYR 2,306 (MYR 2,311) and December at MYR 2,301 (MYR 2,309).

The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were: groundnut oil 840 (840), soya refined oil 635 (632), sunflower exp. ref. 740 (745), sunflower ref. 800 (800), rapeseed ref. oil 705 (705), rapeseed expeller ref. 675 (675) cottonseed ref. oil 660 (655) and palmolein 570 (568).

Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd quoted Rs 612/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein - October delivery.

Zero upcountry demand grinds turmeric



For want of demand and poor quality, spot turmeric prices at Erode decreased further.

R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association said, “Absolutely no trader and exporter has received order from North India. So they purchased 45 per cent of the turmeric arrived for sale with an intention to stock them and also sell them to the local masala firms. Bulk buying is also absent.”

He said that 2,950 bags of turmeric arrived for sale and only quality goods were sold. Nearly 55 per cent of unsold turmeric was taken back by the farmers. The price of hybrid turmeric was decreased by Rs 230 a quintal and the turmeric sold in Regulated Market Committee by Rs 100 . At the Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing Society, the root variety was down Rs 250 due to poor quality.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,429-5,419, the root variety Rs 3,236-4,781.

Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety was sold at Rs 4,591-6,232 and the root variety Rs 4,304-5,369. Of the 702 bags arrived, 308 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,543-5,499; the root variety Rs 4,109-5,084. Of the 583 bags on offer, 512 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,469-5,539 and the root variety Rs 4,173-5,142. All the 415 bags were traded.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,632-5,610; the root variety Rs 4,072-4,980. All the 202 bags were sold.

Wheat seen ruling flat



A weak tone is likely to be witnessed in wheat futures, while a rise in the physical market may continue to rule flat, according to trade experts.

Wheat futures extended losses on Tuesday.

A negative trend was witnessed on the NCDEX on lack of buying interest.

Wheat for October contracts dropped by Rs 12 and traded at 1,543 a quintal with an open interest of 5,270 lots.

The grain had touched a high at Rs 1,554 earlier in the day. October contracts have some support at Rs 1,537 while resistance at Rs 1,573 .

November contracts eased by Rs 11 traded at Rs 1,567 .

In the spot market, wheat spot prices on the exchange traded at Rs 1,600 . In the physical market, a rise in wheat quoted at Rs 1,470-75 . 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 .

Easy availability of stocks coupled with steady domestic demand kept wheat and flour prices unchanged, said Radhey Shyam, a trade expert.

In the absence of any major market moving factors, dala and flour prices have been ruling steady since last weekend and may continue to rule around current levels for the next few days, too, he said.

Flour Prices

With a steady trend in wheat, flour too continued to rule firm and quoted at Rs 1,750 . Similarly, Chokar ruled flat and went for Rs 1,250 a quintal.

Business Standard

Chilli down 3.9% on increased selling, higher output



Chilli prices fell sharply by Rs 218 to Rs 5,326 per quintal in futures trade today on heavy selling by speculators driven by reports of higher output estimates. Subdued demand from retailers and stockists in the spot markets also influenced the market. At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, chilli for delivery in October moved down by Rs 218, or 3.93%, to Rs 5,326 per quintal with an open interest of 4,275 lots.

Likewise, chilli for delivery in November lost Rs 194, or 3.26%, to Rs 5,750 per quintal with open interest of 1,770 lots. Marketmen said offloading of positions by speculators on falling demand at spot market at prevailing higher levels mainly influenced chilli futures. They said reports of higher output this season also dampened the trading sentiment.

Crude palm oil up 0.5% on rise in demand

The oil for delivery in October moved up by 0.43%



Crude palm oil futures prices rose by Rs 2.90 to Rs 535.90 per 10 kg today as speculators created fresh positions on hopes of rise in spot demand. A firm trend in overseas markets also

influenced the crude palm oil prices in the futures market. At the Multi Commodity Exchange crude palm oil for September rose by Rs 2.90, or 0.54%, to Rs 535.90 per 10 kg, with a trading volume of 77 lots. Similarly, the oil for delivery in October moved up by Rs 2.30, or 0.43%, to Rs 525.30 per 10 kg, with a business volume of 92 lots. Marketmen said fresh buying by speculators on hopes of a pick-up in spot demand amid firming overseas trend mainly led to the rise in crude palm oil futures prices. The crude palm oil advanced 0.90% to 727 dollar a metric ton on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange.

Coriander down 2.4% on low demand, sufficient supply

Price for October delivery declined by 2.16%



Coriander prices fell by Rs 140 to Rs 5,550 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators reduced their positions on the back of sluggish demand amid sufficient supply in the spot market. At the Multi Commodity Exchange, coriander prices for delivery in November fell by Rs 140, or 2.46%, to Rs 5,550 per quintal with open interest of 5,480 lots. The price for October delivery declined by Rs 120, or 2.16% to Rs 5,426 per quintal with open interest of 20,670 lots.

Chana down by 0.6% on profit booking

Traders said sluggish demand in the domestic market at existing higher prices led to the fall in chana futures prices



Chana prices fell by 0.61% to Rs 3,058 per quintal in futures trade today on profit-booking by speculators due to sluggish demand in the spot market. At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for October declined by Rs 19, or 0.61%, to Rs 3,058 per quintal with an open interest for 1,55,740 lots. Similarly, chana for November delivery fell by Rs 19, or 0.60% to Rs 3,143 per quintal with an open interest of 77,590 lots. Traders said sluggish demand in the domestic market at existing higher prices and increased arrivals from Rajasthan, mainly led to the fall in chana futures prices.

Cardamom down 0.2% on profit booking

Adequate stocks position in the physical market influenced the cardamom futures



Cardamom prices fell 0.28% to Rs 800.80 per kg in futures trade today as speculators booked profits at prevailing higher levels amid sluggish demand in the spot market. Adequate stocks position in the physical market also influenced the cardamom futures.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in November fell by Rs 2.30, or 0.28%, to Rs 800.80 per kg, with a business turnover of 30 lots. Similarly, the spice for delivery in October declined by Rs 2.10, or 0.27%, to Rs 760 per kg, with a business turnover of 341 lots. Marketmen said besides profit-booking by speculators, sluggish demand in the spot market mainly kept pressure on cardamom prices at futures trade.

Kharif rice output projected to drop to 92.32 mn tonnes: Govt

The rice production stood at 92.76 million tonnes in the kharif (summer) season of the 2012-13 crop year



Country's rice production is projected to drop to 92.32 million tonnes in the Kharif season this year due to deficient rains in some states, but the overall foodgrain output is estimated to rise marginally to 129.32 million tonnes in the same period. The rice production stood at 92.76 million tonnes in the kharif (summer) season of the 2012-13 crop year (June-July), while total foodgrain output was estimated at 128.20 million tonnes.

"As per the first advance estimate for kharif season of 2013-14, rice production is estimated at 92.32 million tonnes in the kharif season of this year," Agriculture Commissioner J S Sandhu said at the national conference on rabi (winter) crops). The estimate for rice output is kept lower as deficient rains in Bihar, Jharkhand and North East have affected the kharif crops, he said.

Also, the flood situations in Assam, Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have an impact on the kharif crops, he added. Sandhu said, however, maize production is projected to increase to 17.78 million tonnes in the kharif season of this year, against 16.04 million tonnes in the year-ago period.

Pulses production is also estimated to rise to 6.01 million tonnes from 5.91 million tonnes in the review period. Whereas millet production is forecast at 13.21 million tonnes in the kharif season of this year, he said. Sowing of kharif crops begin with the onset of southwest monsoon from June, while harvesting starts from October.

According to Indian Meteorological Department, the 53 per cent of the country received normal monsoon. One-third of the country received excess rains. Monsoon has withdrawn from western and northern regions of the country. Early withdrawal of monsoon has created heat stress in central parts of the country, Sandhu added. The Agriculture Ministry releases production estimates at different stages of crop.
