

Date: 27.09.2013

# THE HINDU

## **Veterinary camp**

A veterinary camp for free milch animals given to beneficiaries is to be held in villages of Ariyalur district on September 28. Beneficiaries of 300 cows and 17, 996 goats, provided to them in 2011-12 and 2012-13, can get their animals checked at the camps, according to a release. — Special Correspondent

## **Paddy ryots to get more procurement price**

Paddy farmers in the State will get an additional Rs.50 and Rs.70 per quintal over the minimum support price fixed by the Centre for the kharif crop this season.

Announcing this, Chief Minister Jayalalithaa on Thursday said as per the decision the farmers would be paid Rs.1,360 for a quintal of ordinary paddy and Rs.1,415 for high quality paddy from October 1. The decision was taken following a review meeting chaired by her. The meeting was attended by Ministers and senior officials. She said in a statement that the Centre had announced the MSP at Rs.1,310 (ordinary) and Rs.1,345 (high quality). Ms. Jayalalithaa said Collectors in the Cauvery delta region had been asked to permit TNCSC to open procuring centres in their districts as per the requirement. The Chief Minister also ordered Collectors of non-delta regions to allow the Corporation to open direct procuring centres through coop. societies.

## **Farmers want cold storage unit for onions to be revived**

Work on a cold storage for preserving onions at Kurur near here is yet to see the light of the day because of the delay in providing power supply.

Onion growers have been unable to utilise the service, although civil works had been completed, said farmers at the Agriculturists Grievances' Day meeting held here on Thursday.

Initiating a discussion, R. Raja Chidambaram, State secretary of the Tamilaga Vivasayigal Sangam, urged the district administration to initiate immediate action for utilising the cold storage unit. He wanted expeditious implementation of farm pond programme which was in a snail's pace.

An official from the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation clarified that a few accessories needed for energising the cold storage unit were received only recently. He assured the meeting that the work would be completed in course of time.

A.K. Rajendran, district president of the Tamil Nadu Sugarcane Producers' Association, pleaded for prompt payment of compensation to sugarcane and coconut growers who had lost their crop.

Chelladurai, District secretary of the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, said that a group of maize growers at Siruvachur village had lost their crop this season, because of poor quality in seeds. He wanted strict action against traders selling poor quality seeds.

M.A. Subramanian, District Revenue Officer, who presided over the meeting, promised prompt action for the redress of the grievances. He said that the district registered 312.06 mm of rain till August this year which was fairly above normal realisation.

Albret, Joint Director of Agriculture, said paddy had been raised on 140 hectares, pulses on 46 hectares, and sugarcane on 4,404 hectares.

### **Farmers can insure maize crop**

Farmers of Perambalur district, who have raised maize, have been advised to apply for weather-linked insurance for their crop before September 30. A premium of Rs. 200 will be collected for an insured sum of Rs. 8,000.

The filled in application, along with a cheque for the premium amount payable in Chennai, should be submitted to Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd., according to a release from Collector Darez Ahamed.

Premium can be paid by farmers who had not taken crop loans at the agricultural extension centre. Those who obtained loans could approach the primary agricultural cooperative banks or branches of nationalised banks in their area.

More details about the insurance scheme could be had from Assistant Directors of Agriculture in Perambalur (ph: 9047072766), Alathur (ph: 9047072764), Veppur (ph: 9047072763), and Veppanthattai (ph: 9047072768), Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company (ph: 8939612974), Agricultural Officers of Perambalur (ph: 8144916148), Veppur (ph: 9843852444), Veppanthattai (ph: 9443590920), and Alathur (ph: 8608388197), and DAOs of Perambalur (ph: 7639914464), Veppanthattai (ph: 8098193683), and Alathur (ph: 9965652046).

### **Hearing on sugar mill**

A public hearing on earmarking area under sugarcane from Perambalur Sugar Mill for Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Sugar Mill at Udumbiyam is to be conducted here on October 3. The hearing will be held as per the directions of the Madras High Court at the Collectorate. Farmers' representatives, shareholders and petitioners can take part in the hearing to air their views, according to an official release.

### **Mettur level**

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 105.79 feet on Thursday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 4,645 cusecs and the discharge, 22,002 cusecs.

### **Idukki dam: water level comes down**

With no rain in the catchment area, water level in the Idukki reservoir came down to 2,401.1 ft on Thursday evening. There has been no rain for the past four days, and power generation has been maintained at the maximum level of over 18 mu. The water level had touched a record level of 2,401.68 ft last Saturday. The Power Ministry has decided not to open the dam shutters till the water level reached the full reservoir level (FRL) of 2,403 ft.

### **Farmers stage protest with tractors**

Protests in various forms for united Andhra Pradesh continued on the 57<sup>th</sup> day on Thursday in the district.

Following a call given by the Samaikyandhra Upadhyaya Porata Samiti, a large number of farmers participated in 'Rythu Garjana' from Gantyada to Vizianagaram. The rally, with 80 tractors, passed through the streets of the town.

APSRTC employees sporting masks of Central Ministers organised 'Sonia bhajan' at RTC Complex.

Students of JNTUK College of Engineering and members of the College Teachers' Association, expressing solidarity with the APNGOs, formed a human chain at the Collector's Office junction.

Samaikyandhra Parirakshana Vedika conducted 'Save Andhra Pradesh' meeting.

Speakers, including Siti Cable MD Srinivasa Rao, invited all political parties to share platform because political intervention alone would be able to stop bifurcation of the State.

At Bobbili, teachers conducted 'Ashtavadhanam' and 'Nagara Sankirtana'. The APNGOs would enforce closure of banks and other Central government establishments on Friday.

## **DELHI-WEATHER**

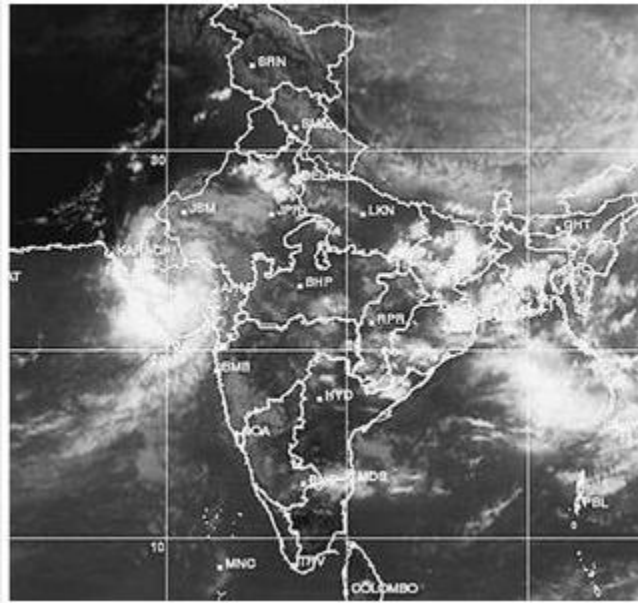
Scattered rain lashed various parts of the Capital on Thursday, bringing some respite from the muggy weather.

Cloud cover enveloped the city in the afternoon and several parts of Delhi received rain, the MeT department said.

There were traces of rain in central Delhi's Lodhi Road area, whereas Najafgarh in South-West Delhi recorded 16 mm of rainfall. Delhi University and Ridge areas received 4 mm and 3.4 mm of rainfall, respectively

The day's maximum and minimum temperatures remained normal at 34.3 and 24 degrees Celsius, respectively, the department said, adding that humidity levels oscillated between 61 and 98 per cent. Weather officials have forecast a partly cloudy sky on Friday, with possibility of light rain in some areas.

## Weather



	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	35	26	0	582
New Delhi (Sfd)	35	24	32	847
Chandigarh	34	25	0	837
Hissar	33	24	0	602
Bhuntar	33	15	0	416
Shimla	24	15	0	876
Jammu	35	23	0	1251
Srinagar	30	14	0	249
Amritsar	35	23	0	761
Patiala	32	25	0	738
Jaipur	32	22	0	693
Udaipur	25	21	9	725
Allahabad	35	26	2	996
Lucknow	34	22	7	742
Varanasi	33	25	53	809
Dehradun	31	22	1	2838
Agartala	33	26	tr	864
Ahmedabad	27	24	33	935
Bangalore	28	19	0	693
Bhubaneshwar	35	25	0	914
Bhopal	31	23	0	1152
Chennai	32	26	0	635
Guwahati	33	25	0	758
Hyderabad	32	23	0	680
Kolkata	36	27	0	1606
Mumbai	30	25	14	2303
Nagpur	34	24	0	1442

Patna	34	25	tr	609
Pune	28	21	0	752
Thiruvananthapuram	33	24	0	1066
Imphal	33	20	5	1043
Shillong	23	16	28	981

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 active in east Uttar Pradesh. 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 Uttar Pradesh, at a few places over east Rajasthan and west-Uttar Pradesh and at isolated places over Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, west-Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. Weather was mainly dry over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm. are: (4 cm. and above) HARYANA: Gohana 10, Palwal and Kharkhoda 4 each, EAST RAJASTHAN: Rajakhera 8, Rupbas 5 and Beir 4, WEST RAJASTHAN: Didwana 5, EAST-UTTAR PRADESH: Balrampur 10, Biswan 9, Kakardharighat and Bansaon 7 each, Fatehpur tehsil, Basti, Faizabad, Jaunpur and Sardanagar 6 each, Ramnagar, Bani and Rajghat 5 each and Utarala, Kheri Lakhimpur and Rae Bareli 4 each and WEST UTTAR PRADESH: Hamirpur 15, Agra 12, Sahaswan and Baheri 9 each, Orai 7, Budaun and Bareilly 5 each and Aligarh 4. **FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 28th SEPTEMBER 2013 :** Rain/thundershowers may occur at many places over east Uttar Pradesh and southwest Rajasthan. Rain/thundershowers may occur at a few places over west Uttar Pradesh. Rain/thundershowers may occur at a few places over south-east Rajasthan during next 24 hours and decrease thereafter. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and north Rajasthan.

**HEAVY RAINFALL WARNING:** Heavy rain may occur at one or two places over south-west Rajasthan on 28th.

**FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 28th SEPTEMBER 2013:** Partly cloudy sky. Very light rain/thundershowers could occur in some areas.

### Onion to be sold at Rs.40 a kg.

The administration has decided to sell onions at Rs. 40 a kilogram at PDS shops in different areas of the city. It was decided at a meeting chaired by the Berhampur sub-collector Bijay Kumar Dash, which had been convened on Thursday to control rising price of onions and to initiate measures to provide onions to common mass at affordable price.

It was expected that sell of onions at PDS shops would become a catalyst in bringing down its price in open market. At present onions are being sold at around 50 rupees per kilogram in the city.

### Sugar, spice and all things nice



*FOOD It's the tiny details and the right balance of ingredients that make Thai cuisine tasty and easy to make says Chef Yingyod Raktham of the Park Hyatt, Dubai*

In retrospect I was ridiculously overambitious. But then Thailand has that effect. All those sophisticated dishes, created by the side of the road with nothing more than a laughably small stove, a beat-up tray of cheap ingredients and barely enough space to stir. Just seeing food so memorable being dished out in minutes by a street-side vendor makes you believe this cuisine is accessible. Unlike exotic Italian, complicated French and elaborate Indian cooking, Thai food seems seductively easy.

Well, as with most things in life, it's a matter of perspective. Admittedly, my methods weren't ideal. I began my Thai food journey by downloading a Pad Thai game on my iPad, where a vendor shouted angrily every time I made a wrong move. It was unexpectedly stressful. So

stressful I can't make Pad Thai even today without looking over my shoulder nervously, expecting to see an old lady shaking her bad-tempered ladle at me.

Next, I went online and started researching Thai green curry. In a fit of enthusiasm — I resolved to start from scratch. Nigel Slater's Thai green vegetable curry seemed like a good place to start. The recipe was encouragingly practical, offering precise measures and clear instructions. So I peeled ginger, squeezed lime, chopped chillies, bruised lemon grass, minced coriander, and then lay down for half an hour with tea bags over my eyes. (Which as a beauty fix is annoyingly ineffective. Especially if you forget to squeeze them properly, resulting in a steady stream of Earl Grey running down your cheeks.) Then came the slicing and dicing: pumpkin, aubergine, mushroom. Add handfuls of coriander and throw it all into the blender for a gratifyingly green, satisfyingly fragrant, slushy sauce. An entire evening's work. It's tasty, but not quite street Thai.

Then, I meet gifted Chef Yingyod Raktham, who runs award-winning restaurant, The Thai Kitchen at Park Hyatt, Dubai.

He's teaching a group of people how to make authentic Thai food at the Park Hyatt Chennai's Flying Elephant restaurant, as part of a 'Masters of Food and Wine' promotion — so I settle down with a notebook determined to ace Thai curry. He holds up a packet of green curry paste. Yes. Curry paste. I'm convinced it's a red herring. I've cooked with curry paste, and it tastes nothing like the Thai curries. Then comes the epiphany: It's not the ingredients; it's how you use them. (Yes. I admit. That's pretty hackneyed as far as epiphanies go. But you'll be surprised at what a difference tiny details make.)

As Chef Yingyod heats oil, and begins sautéing the paste, he explains the basic Thai curries. Red and green, to start with, as most people know. Made with the same ingredients — galangal, lemon grass, kaffir lime leaves etc — the key difference between the two is in the chillies used: red and green respectively. Then there's yellow curry, with turmeric and fenugreek. Malaysian influenced Massman curry with star anise. Panang, with spices from Malaysia, India, and Burma. And relatively mild orange curry, bright with fresh finely chopped turmeric.

Using the pastes immediately expands your repertoire. And reduces your entire cooking process to 15 minutes. When the oil begins to ooze out of the green curry paste, Chef Yingyod stops sautéing for a minute and adds a spoon of sugar to add gloss. Then come the keffir lime



leaves, Thai eggplant, a can of coconut milk and the main ingredient — chicken (with the fat removed, so the dish doesn't get overwhelmingly oily), strips of tenderloin or tofu. If it's red curry, you can use bamboo shoots. If it's Massman, you add potatoes and roasted peanuts. Once you get the basics right, it is easy to play around with ingredients.

The final touch: fish sauce and palm sugar. Or light soy sauce for vegetarians. (The darker version ruins the colour of the dish.) He finishes with a handful of tender Thai basil, scenting the curry with distinct sweet anise-flavoured notes. Since Thai ingredients can be a challenge to source, sometimes you have to make substitutions. The trick is to find a balance of spicy-salty-sweet-sour.

This logic works with desserts too. After powering through a green papaya salad, creamy Tom Kha (basically Tom Yum paste, with coconut milk), Chef Yingyod demonstrates the Saku Nam Ka-ti, a surprisingly easy dessert, given how complex it tastes.

He boils sago in one pan. Heats milk, coconut milk (in a 1:2 ratio) with sugar and salt in another. When the milk mixture cools, it's mixed with sago and topped with fruit. (In this case pomelo, but melons, grapefruit and mango work as well.) Our eyes widen with surprise when we taste the refreshing result: sweet, and salty in almost equal measure. Balance. That's all there is to it.

## **Ryots in jitters over cracks in Nagarjunasagar Canal bund**

*Water release into the right canal stepped up to 11,000 cusecs*

A cavity formed on the Nagarjunasagar Right Canal at Chandravanka aqueduct on Wednesday morning sent panic waves among farmers. With the Nagarjunasagar reservoir filled to the brim, water releases into the Right Canal have been stepped up to 11,000 cusecs.

Gushing waters spilled on and inundated fields at Lingampalli village in Macherla mandal forcing the Irrigation and Revenue officials to rush to the spot. Repair works are going on when reports last came in. Water outflow was being regulated for the next three days with discharges beyond Bugga Vagu to be limited to 8,000 cusecs. The outflow to the canal leading to Macherla is expected to be about 1,000 cusecs. Transplantation of crops is expected to be affected due to regulation of water releases to carry out repairs.

“This is not definitely a breach. An internal cavity was formed due to piping action and water overflowed the bunds. We are taking up repairs and expect to resume the full discharges within four days,” said Superintendent Engineer, NS Canals, Lingamguntla, Sansyasi Naidu.

The incident brought the focus back on the long-pending Nagarjunasagar Right Canal (NSRC) modernisation works. The works, which have been taken up with an outlay of Rs.4,445 crore, including a World Bank aid of Rs.2,025 crore, have virtually come to a standstill. Irrigation engineers said that the cavity could have been formed after the soil loosened due to digging by bandicoots and pests.

### **Villas to spring up where nutmeg first sprouted in State**

An amnesiac Kerala may not be aware that the State’s first nutmeg farm, about 200 years old and privately owned, is riding into the sunset, having given way to real property development.

“Most of the trees on what was once a single entity of 18 acres, charmingly set on the banks of the Periyar on the outskirts of Kalady town, are about 200 years old,” said P. D. Zachariah, president of All Kerala Nutmeg Growers’ Association.

He is convinced that the property, with most of its trees running up to heights varying between 35 and 40 metres, is the oldest nutmeg plantation in Kerala.

His view is echoed by B. Krishnamoorthy, head of Crop Improvement Division of Spices Research Institute of India, Kozhikode, who has spent more than three decades researching nutmeg. Dr. Krishnamoorthy recalled that he had visited the farm as part of his studies and found the trees over 150 years old.

There is no disputing the age of these trees, he said but expressed surprise that the plantation was not being preserved as part of the State’s great spices heritage.

Former Angamaly MLA P.J. Joy said there was a plan to develop sites around Kalady as part of a UNDP-initiated spice tourism trail project linking locations in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. However, the programme had come to a standstill and if it was revived something might have been done about preserving the historic nutmeg plantation in Kalady.

Those associated with what is now more than Rs.250-crore export business in nutmeg and mace are convinced that it is from Kalady that nutmeg cultivation spread to other parts of the State.

The first batch of nutmeg plants were brought to Kerala from a farm near Kandy in Sri Lanka by a Scottish planter.

The more than 100-year-old nutmeg trees at farms in Pariyaram, near Chalakudy, have been linked to the Kalady plantation.

Johny John Kannampilly, whose family has a long tradition of nutmeg farming in Paryaram, said his family had a link to the Poonolil family through his paternal grand mother.

“The Kannampilly property has trees aged over 100 years and these trees could have come from Kalady,” he said.

India produces nearly 4,000 tonnes of nutmeg and mace, the cultivation now having spread to most of Kerala’s 14 districts and neighbouring States like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Places along the Periyar in Mukundapuram taluk of Ernakulam district are the bastions of nutmeg cultivation in Kerala, which has roughly 1.5 lakh nutmeg farmers. The crop is the mainstay for small and marginal farmers as the prices have swung up substantially over recent years.

Though down this year to an average of about Rs.400 a kg, mace sold for nearly Rs.1,500 a kg last year and nutmegs sold for Rs.800 a kg.

An official of the State Department of Agriculture said the nutmeg plantation was considered the oldest in Kerala. Its historical status made the authorities choose it as the venue of *Nattukoottam* , a programme organised by the former LDF government to attract more people into farming.

Varghese Koikkara, an avid nutmeg farmer living in the property’s neighbourhood, said what was referred to as the Poonolil estate by the local people was the oldest nutmeg farm in Kerala. Eighty-two-year-old Abraham Poonolil is a former president of the Kalady panchayat. He

told *The Hindu* that the 18-acre parcel of property was bought by his great grandfather, Ittoop Poonolil, in an auction conducted by the Rajah of Travancore.

The property came up for auction after its Scottish owner, whose name Mr. Poonolil did not know, died in Kochi and his two daughters did not want to travel to India to take care of the property.

He said there were no written documents about the history of the property.

There was also significant extent of paddy fields, owned by the same Scottish planter, which came up for auction. The paddy fields were bought by the Panamana family, said Mr. Poonolil.

### **Foot-and-mouth disease claims 730 head of cattle**

In one of the biggest cattle deaths due to foot and mouth disease in the State, the outbreak in southern districts has claimed 730 head of cattle so far this month.

Negligence on the part of farmers to get the cattle vaccinated and also delay in starting the seasonal vaccination is said to have contributed to the outbreak even as the officials suspect that a new strain of the virus may have emerged.

Though sporadic cases had been reported in the last fortnight, a majority of them have died in less than one week, causing panic among farmers in Mandya (230), Kolar (222), Ramanagaram (129), Chickballapur (63) and Mysore (42) districts where the majority of deaths have been reported, according to an Animal Husbandry Department official.

Chamarajanagar (12), Bangalore Urban (11), Bangalore Rural (3), Tumkur (16) and Dharwad (3) districts have also reported cattle death due to the air-borne viral disease. However, sources in the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) put the cattle toll between 800 and 900.

On Monday, the herbivores safari at Bannerghatta Biological Park was closed after three spotted deer and a neelgai died of the foot and mouth disease, suspected to have been transmitted by the cattle.

The outbreak of the disease has come in flush season when the KMF is expected to reach a daily procurement of 60 lakh kg. Currently, it is procuring 56.2 lakh kg of milk daily, the highest ever since the federation started in the mid-70s.

“The foot and mouth disease is reported almost every year and it is contained quickly. But this time, it happened suddenly. This is the biggest reported deaths so far. The high yielding cross breeds are most susceptible,” an official associated with KMF for three decades revealed.

A senior Animal Husbandry Department official said the vaccination drive against the foot and mouth disease is conducted in February/ March and August/ September every year.

“However, this time the vaccination drive started late due to heavy rainfall, and it is continuing. Besides, many farmers do not get their cattle vaccinated in the belief that the milk yields reduce for a few days after vaccination. The outbreak could be due to a combination of these reasons,” the official explained.

### **New strain?**

The death of cattle affected by foot and mouth disease has also been precipitated by hemorrhagic septicemia (HS), another KMF official said, adding that the post-mortem had revealed HS as the reason for death.

“We are also suspecting a virus mutation for the deaths as cattle is vaccinated twice a year. Samples have been sent to the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals to ascertain the reason for deaths,” Bangalore Dairy Managing Director Gurulingaiah, said.

Meanwhile, confirming that it is the highest number of deaths owing to foot and mouth disease in the State, the Secretary, Animal Husbandry K.H. Ashwathnarayan Gowda, said that intensive vaccination had been taken up and there was sufficient vaccine stock (supplied by Union government) in the State.

“The outbreak is expected to be contained in one week,” he added.

## Violence leaves a trail of bitterness in jaggery market

Rickshawwallah Sonu pedals fast, carrying his first rider of the day to Naveen Mandi Sthal or Nayee Mandi from Shiv Chowk, the heart of Muzaffarnagar, where communal riots killed 49 people last month.

Nayee Mandi is one of the biggest jaggery markets in Western Uttar Pradesh as well as in India.

But now, other than a few lorries and a couple of pushcarts stranded here and there, the Mandi is empty. Some traders are gossiping at a corner.

*Sir-ji, Log dahashat mein hain, mandi anekey liey dar paida ho gaya hai* [People are in fear. They fear coming to market],” Mohammad Shakir told this correspondent. He was sitting with Choudari Fateh Singh, Anil Sharma, Pappu and others, who are all wholesalers.

“Here, 90 per cent Muslims are involved in jaggery-making and 90 per cent Hindus are traders; they are the two hands of the business. We cannot run the show separately,” snaps Choudari Fateh Singh.

“In this market, people come from various castes and creeds; we have never felt any difference. But today, farmers from villages are scared of visiting the mandi. Worse, they account for the majority of the people coming here,” says Shakir.

“The market was transacting business worth at least Rs.1 crore every day. It is suffering now and will continue to suffer, unless the State government punishes the real culprits who perpetrated the violence and are hiding behind the scene.” This is the unanimous view of all of them.

Soon after sugar cane harvest in the district, the market will throb with life next month. But traders are afraid that there won't be many labourers for harvest this time because most of them are Muslim. What is more, daily wagers, who come from different places to earn more during the peak season, will stay away.

On other hand, life in Muzaffarnagar has returned to normal. Shops, schools and offices are open, people go about their work and security personnel mount vigil from junctions.

Kuldeep Singh, 55, is running a mobile phone repair shop at Gol Market in Shiv Chowk, a retail hub. He says the retail market depends mainly on customers from villages. The violence has resulted in an unannounced 'bandh' for over a month now, crippling the business there.

Viswadeep Goel, who owns Tip Top readymade garment shop at Gol Market, puts down the violence to bad politics over trivial issues. "We are just one month away from the major festive season — Navratri, Eid and Deepavali. If things are not normal by then, we all will suffer badly," he says.

Sonu leaves after a round of at least five km. When I ask what his full name is, he keeps mum.

After I pay him the fare, he salutes me and discloses that he is a Muslim, struggling to support a family of six with his earnings of Rs. 150 a day.

## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

**TomTato: Plant that produces potatoes, tomatoes launched**



A plant which produces both [potatoes](#) and tomatoes, described as a "veg plot in a pot", has been launched in the UK. The [TomTato](#) can grow more than 500 sweet cherry [tomatoes](#) while producing white potatoes.

Horticultural mail order company Thompson & Morgan, which is selling the plants for £14.99 each, said the hybrid plants were individually hand-crafted and not a product of [genetic](#) engineering.

Grafted potato-tomato plants have already been produced in the UK, but Thompson & Morgan says this is the first time they have been successfully produced commercially.

The company says the tomatoes are far sweeter than those available in supermarkets.

Paul Hansord, horticultural director at the company, said he first had the idea for the plant 15 years ago in the US, when he visited a garden where someone had planted a potato under a tomato as a joke.

He said: "The TomTato has been trialled for several years and the end result is far superior than anything I could have hoped for, trusses full of tomatoes which have a flavour that makes shop tomatoes inedible, as well as a good hearty crop of potatoes for late in the season.

"It has been very difficult to achieve the TomTato because the tomato stem and the potato stem have to be the same thickness for the graft to work, it is a very highly-skilled operation. "We have seen similar products, however on closer inspection the potato is planted in a pot with a tomato planted in the same pot - our plant is one plant and produces no potato foliage."

The plants can be grown either outside or inside, as long as they are in a large pot or bag.

A similar product, dubbed the "Potato Tom", was launched in garden centres in New Zealand this week.

### [Haryana to give country's highest ever price of sugarcane](#)

NEW DELHI: Haryana chief minister, [Bhupinder Singh Hooda](#) on Thursday announced to give country's highest ever price of [sugarcane](#) to the farmers of the state. This would benefit the farmers to the tune of an additional income of Rs 450 crore to Rs 500 crore during the year 2013-14.

The chief minister, announced to give a price of Rs 301 per quintal for the early variety of sugarcane, Rs 295 per quintal for mid variety and Rs 290 per quintal for late variety.

Sugarcane is cultivated on over 3 lakh acres of area in Haryana. The rate of recovery of sugar has increased from 9.05 % in 2012-13 to 9.76%.



Mr Hooda said that while considering the demands of the representatives of the farming community, he had decided to further increase the price of sugarcane as decided by the [Haryana state sugar control board](#) thus increasing the price of mid variety from Rs 291 to Rs 295 per quintal and that of late variety from Rs 286 to Rs 290 per quintal.

With this hike for the year 2013-14, the rate of early variety of sugarcane has been increased by Rs 25 per quintal as compared to that of 2012-13. Similarly, the rates of mid and late varieties have been increased by Rs 24 per quintal as compared to the year 2012-13.

Hooda said that during the last eight years of his eight years tenure, the price of early variety of sugarcane has been increased by Rs 184 per quintal whereas the [INLD government](#) had increased it by merely Rs 22 per quintal during its rule from July 1999 to February 2005.

When the [Congress](#) assumed office in 2005, at that time the rate of sugarcane was Rs 117 per quintal, but now it had been increased to Rs 301 per quintal, thus making an increase of 157 % said Hooda.

Farmers have been paid on time for the sugarcane purchased from them and for the last crushing season, no arrears are pending neither of cooperative nor of private sugarmills. He said that in case of [Uttar Pradesh](#), arrears of sugarcane amounting to Rs 2500 crore are yet to be paid.

### [Monsoon above average ahead of final retreat](#)

NEW DELHI: India saw above-average rains last week, data from the weather office showed on Thursday, spurring hopes that rice yields may get a boost from the heavy downpour at the tail end of the four-month [monsoon](#) season.

Rainfall was 18 per cent above average in the week ended Sept 25, compared with a 25 per cent shortage a week ago, according to the data.

Grains production this summer is likely to be near an all-time high after plentiful rains, the government has said, helping to tame high food prices and boost farm sector growth in the world's second-most populous country.

Last week's rains as the June-to-September season draws to a close should help rice beat the government's forecast for a marginal year-on-year drop in output to 92.3 million tonnes.

The monsoon, which is vital for the 55 per cent of farmland that does not have irrigation, started the four-month season with very heavy rains, ensuring that the lower-than-average rainfall later on was not a major problem.

This year, the rains started their retreat about a week earlier than usual on Sept 9.

### [Restore export benefits for cotton yarn: CITI chairman](#)

NEW DELHI: [Confederation of Indian Textile Industry](#) has requested government to restore export benefits under focus market scheme and incremental export Incentivisation scheme on cotton yarn.

Reacting to a recent notification No.43(RE-2013)/2009-2014 dated September 25th issued by Directorate general of Foreign Trade (DGFT) withdrawing these benefits on certain products including cotton yarn, Prem Malik, chairman [CITI](#) observed that there is no export restriction or export duty on cotton yarn.

"There is only a requirement of registration of export contracts with the DGFT which is only for the purpose of data collection on exports. Thus, withdrawing the export incentives on the ground that there is restriction on export is incorrect in this case," he added.

Malik stated that [cotton yarn](#) is an industrial product and its production has been increasing substantially in the country. Since the domestic demand has not kept pace with the increasing production, there has been a decline in cotton yarn prices in the domestic market in recent weeks. He stressed that India is the most competitive yarn producer in the world at present and therefore there are increasing export opportunities opening up for our cotton yarn.

Referring to the urgent need to bridge the capital account deficit, chairman, CITI observed that textile products, including cotton yarn, have increasing demand in the overseas markets and it will be logical to encourage export of cotton yarn from the point of view of bridging the CAD, in addition to creating additional employment.

### Higher cotton output, lower exports in next season

NEW DELHI: Cotton output is likely to be about 9 per cent higher at 370 lakh bales (170 kg each) in the next season compared to the current year, while [exports](#) are estimated to be 15 per cent lower at 85 lakh bales.

Cotton season is between October to September. In the current year, the natural fibre production was around 340 lakh bales, domestic consumption was 260 lakh bales and exports were 100 lakh bales.

"The natural fibre output is expected to be 370 lakh bales in the 2013-14 season, and the domestic requirement would be around 285 lakh bales and exports around 85 lakh bales in the next season," Textiles Minister [Kavuru Sambasiva Rao](#) told reporters here after inaugurating the 'Resham Ghar'.

The [Resham Ghar](#), an exclusive outlet for [pure Indian silks](#), has showcased products of various silk clusters from across the country including [West Bengal](#), [Tamil Nadu](#), [Bihar](#) and Karnataka.

However, Rao said, "You have to wait for the [Cotton Advisory Board](#) (CAB) estimates."

The CAB, which is under the Textiles Ministry, has not come out with its latest review on cotton for the current year as well as for the next year.

The Board, which usually meets every quarter to estimate cotton output, consumption, exports and imports, has not come with any review since April this year.

The increase in the natural fibre output in the next year is likely to be on account of good monsoon mainly in cotton growing states and increase in acreage.

An industry expert said Gujarat, which is the highest yielding state in India, has seen an increase of more than 10 per cent in acreage on the back of a good monsoon.

India is the world's second-largest cotton producer and exporter. Of the country's total natural fibre exports, China accounts for about 75 per cent.

## Tamil Nadu farmers to get Rs 50-70 more per quintal for paddy



### CHENNAI:

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalithaa said farmers in the state would get an additional Rs 50 and Rs 70 per quintal over the minimum support price of Rs 1,310 (ordinary) and Rs 1,345 (high quality) respectively as announced by the Centre for kharif crops for this season.

With this, farmers would get Rs 1,360 per quintal for ordinary paddy and Rs 1,415 per quintal for high quality paddy from October 1, Jayalithaa said in a statement..

The decision was arrived at a meeting chaired by the Chief Minister with other ministers and senior officials.

The Centre announced a hike in the support price of paddy by Rs 60 to Rs 1,310 and by Rs 65 to Rs 1345 for high quality paddy per quintal for the 2013-14 crop year.

The Chief Minister has also directed respective District Collectors in the Cauvery delta region to permit Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation to open procuring centres in their districts when required.

She has also ordered District Collectors in non-delta region to permit TNCSC to open direct procuring centres through cooperative credit societies.

## India may set record wheat output this year on good rain: Government



NEW DELHI: The government today said the country's [wheat](#) production this year may surpass the previous record of 94.88 million tonnes after good rains took water reservoir levels to a 10-year high.

India, the world's second-biggest wheat grower, had produced a record 94.88 million tonnes of wheat in the 2011-12 crop year (July-June), buoyed by a good monsoon. Poor rains in 2012-13 lowered the output to 92.46 million tonnes.

"We are quite confident that we will easily achieve the wheat production target of 92.5 million tonnes this year as the water level in reservoirs is the highest in the last 10 years. If the temperature remains good at various stages of crop growth, we could even cross the previous record," Agriculture Commissioner J S Sandhu told PTI in an interview.

Sandhu said water in the country's reservoirs has risen to 130 billion cubic meters now, as against 155 billion cubic meters of usable storage capacity.

While the reservoir position is very good in the north, south and west, there hasn't been much improvement in central India due to less rainfall, he added.

As soil moisture is good, sowing of rainfed wheat will begin next month, while planting in irrigated areas will start in the first week of November, he added. Sowing of wheat, the main [rabi](#) (winter) crop, normally starts in October and harvesting takes place in March-April.

Sandhu said farmers will be encouraged to use two seed varieties (HB2967 and HH1105) that are resistant to yellow rust fungal disease. Availability of the two seed varieties is sufficient, he added.

On other winter crops, Sandhu said, "We aim to achieve a total [foodgrain production](#) of 128.5 million tonnes in the rabi season of this year. It is an easily achievable target."

The government has set a rabi production target of 12 million tonnes for pulses, 14 million tonnes for rice, 4.4 million tonnes for maize and 1.5 million tonnes for barley, he added.

### [ICRISAT launches new portal to share agricultural information](#)

HYDERABAD: City-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has launched today EXPLOREit@ICRISAT ([exploreit.icrisat.org](http://exploreit.icrisat.org)), which makes large volumes of agricultural scientific knowledge and information easily accessible to the public.

"We are doubly excited - not only have we given easier access to all of ICRISAT's 40 years of scientific research through EXPLOREit, but we have achieved this through the MultiProfiler concept, a revolutionary way of making information accessible," ICRISAT Director General William D Dar said.

"We found that typical websites are too restrictive in giving access to information, and do not present the information in ways that are easy for people to view the detail of the content.

ICRISAT's new MultiProfiler concept provides information through multiple navigations and creates easy to view profiles on the subject areas," explained Joanna Kane-Potaka, ICRISAT Director of Strategic Marketing and Communication.

"Sharing publicly-funded agricultural information in the most accessible way is critically important to achieve our agricultural development goals of reducing rural poverty, increasing food security, improving human health and nutrition, and ensuring more sustainable management of natural resources," Dar said.

EXPLOREit is now to become the main source of ICRISAT's scientific information with profiles of all topics, systems, crops, locations and resources where it works.

"It sets a new standard for sharing of information, and therefore promotes collaboration. To achieve this, ICRISAT has made a momentous leap in its use of technology with EXPLOREit- a dynamic site that feeds information from databases using tags and harvests information from other websites," an ICRISAT release said.

### South Indian tea production to drop for fifth successive year



KOCHI: The tea crop in South India is heading for a slump for the fifth successive year as the period from January to July 2013 has shown a declining trend. Taking into account the initial estimates for August, the United Planters' Association of South India (Upasi) has calculated the cumulative drop in the production till August to be 10 million Kg, which it says, is unlikely to be recouped in the remaining four months.

Upasi president Peter Mathias attributed the loss in production to weather conditions that prevailed during the year. "In the first quarter there was a drought -like situation which was followed by excessive rain and overcast conditions that were not conducive for the crop prospects in the second and third quarters," he said.

In the first seven months, the tea crop was lower by 5.7 million Kg. In August the crop has fallen by 25% as per initial reports, which translates to a decline of 4.3 million Kg.

The low production coupled with higher domestic intake has resulted in buoyant prices. The average price for the January-August period is estimated at Rs 102.23 per Kg compared with Rs 84.24 per Kg in the corresponding period of the previous year. The price of CTC variety was higher by Rs 17.99 per Kg while the orthodox variety sold higher by Rs 19.10 per Kg.

The change in product mix in favour of CTC teas to satisfy the increased domestic demand needs has resulted in higher volume of tea routed through auctions.

Peter Mathias said given the market fundamentals, the price should remain moderately bullish in the months leading to the festival season.

#### Excessive rains may bring down production, yield



NEW DELHI|KOLKATA: Above-normal rainfall across central, south-peninsular and western India could affect the yield and production of standing crops of soybean, cotton, paddy and pulses in certain pockets of kharif growing states. Soybean cultivation in Madhya Pradesh, the largest producer, has been affected due to excessive rains this year.

Though the Soybean Processors Association (SOPA) is yet to come out with official figures of the crop, farmers from Hosangabad, Harda, Raisen and Sehore districts say that there has been a near 40% crop loss.

Leeladhar Rajput, president of Madhya Pradesh Ktantikari Kishan Parishad, said: "Soybean farmers have suffered badly due to rains. Fields were waterlogged even during the time of



harvest." Though SOPA spokesperson Rajesh Agarwal admitted to some crop losses in Madhya Pradesh, he also pointed out that a higher yield of soybean in Maharashtra is likely to make up for the losses.

In the previous year, the country produced 126 lakh tonne of soybean on 106.5 lakh hectares. Though the acreage was increased to 122 lakh hectares this kharif, heavy rains dented higher production. "We may end up with 126 lakh tonne of produce this year as well," the SOPA spokesperson said. He added that arrivals of new crop have come down in the last week due to rains in Madhya Pradesh.

Currently, a quintal of soybean commands Rs 3,450-. 3,500 at the mandi. Paddy cultivation, however, has shown a mixed trend. In Bihar and Jharkhand, paddy cultivation suffered a major setback due to sparse rains which affected seed beds and prevented farmers from transplanting.

On the other hand, heavy rainfall hurt paddy cultivation in Karnataka, making transplantation of paddy saplings nearly impossible. In some villages, nurseries and saplings that were transplanted were washed away in floods. While farmers in these villages had to transplant the crops again, they also had to remove weeds and provide an additional dose of fertilisers.

Production was also affected due to high moisture content in paddy, a majority of which later fell prey to blast diseases. Continuous rainfall for the past four days across Gujarat has been worrying for both cotton and pulses. "The harvest will be delayed by a fortnight and there might be 5-7 % damage in the tur crop," said Mitesh Patel, president of the Gujarat Pulses and Manufacturing Association. The crop sown in June-July is harvested in November-December. Harvesting of tur dal begins from the first week of November in Maharashtra.

Subsequently , it also starts in Andhra Pradesh , Karnataka , Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The southwest monsoon performed well with 5% excess rainfall as on September 24. Madhya Pradesh , Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka have enjoyed more than normal rainfall.

According to the MeT Department, rainfall is expected to be normal for the rest of the season ending September. Dhiren Sheth, president of the Cotton Association of India said that the situation was not worrisome so far. "If rains continue then there might be a problem. If it becomes sunny in the next few days, then the situation will improve," he said.

Currently, the crop is in the ball-development stage and the first flush of cotton picking may begin in some pockets of Punjab and Haryana shortly. Being the world's second-largest cotton exporter and producer, cotton in India is planted on an average 11-12 million hectares during the early-to-late kharif season across nine states.

Even though growers appear to be concerned about the crops, agri-experts feel that the rains will not have a huge impact on the kharif crop this year. "This year, paddy will get a bumper crop due to good monsoon. Some damage to the standing crop like soyabean, cotton, pulses crop is there but that may not be significant ," said Dr A Janaiah, head of school of Agribusiness Management, ANGR Agri University Hyderabad.

## THE HINDU Business Line

[Tainted pepper casts shadow on futures exchanges](#)



Trading in pepper futures has been paralysed after commodity exchanges launched new contracts specifying that the spice's stocks should not have any presence of mineral oil.

According to a Forward Markets Commission (FMC) official, trading on Indian Pepper and Spices Trading Association (IPSTA) and the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE) has virtually halted in view of the new specification.

The National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has discontinued offering pepper contracts, following a controversy over quality of pepper stocks in its six warehouses.

The quality specification was incorporated in the pepper contracts and re-launched a couple of months ago after traders complained about poor quality of stocks for October and November contracts last year. Data show that the open interest for December contract on the NMCE is zero and for November, it is seven tonnes. For October, it is 22 tonnes.

On the IPSTA, the open position is zero for all contracts between October and March.

According to the FMC official, who did not wish to be identified, no one is willing to trade since it will be difficult to meet the new specification of no presence of mineral oil in pepper.

Traces of mineral oil find their way into pepper when it is oil washed to remove the skin.

“Mineral oil is present in pepper that is traded in the physical market. What is sold in the spot finds its way in the futures market too. Therefore, no one is willing to take the risk after the re-launch with the new specification,” the official said.

According to the FMC official, the issue cropped up since a “big party” had built up positions, expecting pepper prices to soar. “When the prices did not rise as expected, they did not want to take delivery and began raising the quality issue,” the official said.

Pepper prices had been ruling high until the middle of September last year after exports jumped to a record during January-September.

“The FMC sent two officials, including one who has been with the Spices Board earlier, to look into the complaint. They found that the quality of the stocks adhered to the specification,” according to the official.

With complaints overstocks in six warehouses of the NCDEX, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India came into picture. Tests by the authority showed that the stocks contained mineral oil, which was carcinogenic.

This led to a legal tangle with traders in Madhya Pradesh moving the High Court in Indore pleading for an order on the issue. However, they withdrew the petition last week after the NCDEX questioned its maintainability.

IPSTA, on the other hand, faced another peculiar issue. While giving permission to launch pepper futures in May this year, the FMC had fixed a daily ceiling of Rs 500 a quintal for movement of prices for futures. The limit was found unviable and following representation from the association to the FMC, it was raised to Rs 2,000 in July.

But trading was discontinued after July as the association faced difficulties in formulating new guidelines and specifications.

According to traders, Indian pepper is considered a premium product in the global market and so far, there has been no controversy over mineral oil till now.

### **Spot rubber skids on lack of buyers**

Spot rubber declined on Thursday as were no buyers, even at lower levels. Scattered transactions dragged the market further.

According to dealers, the recent price fall and the absence of fresh enquiries, from major consuming industries have unnerved traders. The overall sentiments were extremely bearish.

Sheet rubber weakened to Rs 174 (175) a kg, according to traders. The grade dropped to Rs.175 (178) at Kottayam and Kochi, as quoted by the Rubber Board.

October futures improved to Rs 174.20 (Rs 172.89), November to Rs 173.45 (Rs 171.96) December to Rs 175.52 (Rs 173.90) and January to Rs 178 (Rs 176.62) while the February futures remained inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) declined to Rs 163.32 (Rs 165.19) at Bangkok. October futures closed at ¥ 261.1 (Rs 164.16) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

**Spot rubber rates (Rs/kg) were:** RSS-4: 174 (175); RSS-5: 170 (172); Ungraded: 160 (165); ISNR 20: 165 (166) and Latex 60 per cent: 137 (139).

### **Business Line scribe wins award for reporting on agriculture**

K.V. Kurmanath, Senior Assistant Editor, Business Line, has been conferred the 'Rythu Nestam' Award - 2013 for excellence in agricultural reporting.

Kurmanath has specialised in agricultural reporting and been writing for over two decades including the last 10 years in *Business Line*.

The awards have been instituted by agricultural monthly/daily, *Rythu Nestam*, on the occasion of its ninth anniversary. The categories of awards included farmers, agricultural scientists and journalists.

K. Rosaiah, Governor of Tamil Nadu, gave away the awards to the winners at a function here on Thursday.

### **Lack of inventories may stem fall in rice prices**



Rice prices ruled steady on Thursday with aromatic and non-basmati varieties ruling unchanged from previous levels. Trading, however, was restricted.

With limited trading taking place in the market, prices were unchanged said, Amit Chandna, Proprietor of Hanuman Rice Trading Company.

Bulk buyers are keeping off the market as they are waiting for prices to drop further after the new crop begins arriving, he said.

Arrival of the new aromatic varieties is round the corner and it is also putting pressure on the market; but any major fall is unlikely as millers do not have much inventories with them, said Amit Chandna.

In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) sold at Rs 8,000-8,100 a quintal, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs 7,700-7,750. Pure basmati (raw) quoted at Rs 11,000. Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs 6,800-6,900.

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

In the non-basmati section, Sharbati (Steam) sold at Rs 4,700-4,800 while Sharbati (Sela) quoted at Rs 4,400-4,500. Permal (raw) was sold at Rs 2,350-2,400, Permal (sela) Rs 2,300, PR-11 (sela) Rs 2,900 while PR-11 (raw) was quoted at Rs 2,700-2,750. PR14 (steam) ruled at Rs 3,000-3,080.

### **Paddy arrivals**

Around 12,000 bags of different paddy varieties arrived at the Karnal Grain Market Terminal.

About 10,000 bags PR paddy arrived and quoted at Rs 1,320-1,335. Around 1,000 bags of Pusa-1509 arrived and sold at Rs 3,470 while 1,000 bags of Sharbati arrived and sold at Rs 2,320.

### **Selling pressure drags sugar to year's low**



Sugar prices dropped to year's low on increased selling pressure on Thursday.

On the Vashi wholesale market, spot prices for S-grade dropped below Rs 3,000 a quintal. On the domestic futures market, prices dropped below Rs 2,900 for contracts maturing in October.

Producers sold sugar Rs10-30 lower to ease inventory burden as the new crushing season is set to start soon.

Naka rates were under as traders had to lift stocks for deals that end this month. In Vashi, spot market prices declined by Rs 5-15 a quintal, said sources.

An analyst said that in the absence of export possibilities currently, sugar mills continue to sell in local markets, which are already carrying ample stocks.

Hence, producers were forced to sell at lower rates as they needed liquidity.

The crushing season year will start from October 1 and sugar output is expected higher than local demand. Traders are expecting closing stocks of around 85-90 lack tonnes this season ending this month.

Prices on the domestic futures continued to drop for the fifth consecutive day in the absence of any positive cue.

Arrivals in the Vashi market were 62-64 truckloads (each 100 bags), while local dispatches were 58-60 loads.

On Wednesday evening, 14-15 mills offered tenders and sold 39,000-40,000 bags (each 100 kg) at Rs 2,820-2,900 (Rs 2,840-2,930) for S-grade and Rs 2,950-3,010 (Rs 2,950-3,020) for M-grade.

**On the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange**, sugar October futures declined by Rs 15 to Rs 2,899 (Rs 2,914), November lower by Rs 10 to Rs 2,929 (Rs 2,939) and December dipped by Rs 7 to Rs 2,944 (Rs 2,951) till noon.

**The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates** were: S-grade Rs 2,986-3,121 (Rs 3,002-3,125) and M-grade Rs 3,136-3,282 (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).

**Uttar Pradesh** rates were: Lakhimpur Rs 3,300 and Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,260.

### Edible oils weak on bearish futures



The edible oils market turned weak on Thursday, tracking bearish futures market. A clear weather in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra also increased hopes of timely arrivals of kharif oilseeds crop in the market.

However, groundnut oil gained Rs 30 and cotton refined oil by Rs 4 for 10 kg in line with movements in the Saurashtra market. Rapeseed and soyabean refined oil increased by Rs 5 each. Palmolein declined by Rs 2 on increased resale selling pressure. Concern over surging supply of palm oil kept investors on edge.

A bearish futures market also kept stockists away from buying. About 550-600 tonnes of soyabean refined oil at Rs 640-642 were sold by local refineries. Resellers offloaded 80-100 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 564-565.

Liberty quoted palmolein at Rs 568, super palmolein Rs 598 and super deluxe Rs 618, soyabean refined oil Rs 647 and sunflower refined oil Rs 815.

Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 568, soyabean refined oil Rs 645 and sunflower refined oil Rs 800. Allana quoted palmolein at Rs 568, super palmolein Rs 600, soyabean refined oil Rs 645 and sunflower refined oil Rs 815. Gokul quoted palmolein at Rs 570. In Rajkot, groundnut oil



shot up by Rs 35 to Rs 1,320 (Rs 1,285) for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) at Rs 850 (Rs 825). New soyabean arrivals were one lakh bags and its prices were Rs 3,250-3,450 ex mandi and Rs 3,475-3,550 for plant delivery.

**Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's** October futures settled lower at MYR 2,310 (MYR 2,324), November declined to MYR 2,272 (MYR 2,299) and December at MYR 2,267 (MYR 2,294).

**The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were:** Groundnut oil 870 (840), soya refined oil 640 (635), sunflower exp. ref. 740 (725), sunflower ref. 795 (795), rapeseed ref. oil 715 (710), rapeseed expeller ref. 685 (680) cottonseed ref. oil 664 (660) and palmolein 565 (567).

**Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd** has quoted Rs 617 for 10 kg - for Malaysia super palmolein for October delivery.

#### **Jeera futures crackle on poor spot demand**



Prices of jeera futures slipped on the back of poor demand in the spot market.

Moreover, prospects of better sowing that begins next month and higher carryover stocks weighed on sentiments.

But restricted selling and expectation that fresh demand for exports will crop up limited the downfall in spot.

On the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, October contract declined by Rs 150 or 1.15 per cent to Rs 12,950 a quintal, with an open interest of 10,620 lots.

November jeera settled lower at Rs 13,180, down by Rs 132.50, with an open interest of 2,772 lots.

At Unjha mandi in Gujarat, daily arrivals have been reduced to 4,000-5,000 bags against 8,000-9,000 bags reported at the beginning of the month.

Prices decreased by Rs 15-20 to Rs 2,400-2,684 for a *maund* of 20 kg for the best quality.

Medium grade jeera was quoted at Rs 2,200-2,400 and lower grade jeera price at Rs 1,991-2,200.

Latest data suggested that low prices of jeera here compared with competitors such as Syria and Turkey have turned international buyers towards India.

Traders are expecting jeera exports to increase in the coming days as supplies from Syria and Turkey are poor.

According to Kedia Commodity report, jeera prices will be range-bound between Rs 12,800 and Rs 13,200 on prospects of higher sowing.

#### **Damage to soya crop likely to support mustard**



Mustard oil ruled flat on Thursday across markets in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat as buying support was subdued.

In Indore, mustard oil ruled at Rs 645, while it was Rs 640 in Neemuch and Rs 648 in Morena in Madhya Pradesh.

Compared with last week, prices are ruling Rs 9 higher in Indore. In Rajasthan also mustard oil quoted at Rs 650 for 10 kg at Kota and Rs 665 in Jaipur.

In Gujarat, mustard oil ruled flat at Rs 640 (down Rs 5 from last week). Given the fact that carryover stocks are ample, a rally in mustard appears unlikely though its consumption rises in northern parts during winter, said a trader.

However, according to another section of traders, reports of damage to soyabean crop during the extend period of rains in Madhya Pradesh and other neighbouring States last week, and an expected fall in its output may lift mustard and its oil.

But gains in mustard and its oils could be marginal only since soyabean carryover stocks are ample.

Mustard seeds ruled firm at Rs 4,100-4,200 a quintal (down Rs 50 from last week), while raida ruled at Rs 3,000.

According to Vinod Choudhary, a broker, any major correction in mustard seeds appears unlikely as winter is not far off.

In futures, however, improved demand and buying support lifted mustard prices from last week with October and November contracts on the NCDEX closing at Rs 3,554 (up Rs 54 from last week) and Rs 3,608 a quintal (up Rs 62 from last week).

Plant deliveries in mustard seeds for Jaipur line were quoted at Rs 3,665-70 a quintal ( up Rs 20 a quintal from last week) amid subdued demand from the crushers.

Arrival of mustard seeds was recorded at 90,000 bags against 75,000 bags last week with Rajasthan leading with 55,000, followed by Madhya Pradesh 8,000, Punjab/Haryana 8,000,

Uttar Pradesh 7,000, Gujarat 4,000, while remaining 8,000 were offloaded elsewhere in the country.

### Pepper futures recover on buying interest



Pepper futures recovered on some buying interest on Thursday. October and November contracts gained but December contracts were not traded.

The turnover showed some improvement on both the National Multi Commodity Exchange and the Indian Pepper and Spices Trade Association, market sources said.

At the same time, MG-1 pepper is not available. Sellers holding the premium grade were demanding Rs 430 a kg because they claimed that their produce is water washed, the trader said.

According to the traders, activities on the futures market have been limited because of several factors. For instance, the 110 tonnes of pepper released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India officials could not be sold as a number formalities need to be completed. The uncertainty over the future of the 6,800 tonnes of pepper held in the warehouses is also pointed out by the trade as a reason for the lacklustre trading.

On the spot, 21 tonnes arrived and the off take was 20 tonnes at Rs 401-405 a kg. Much of the domestic demand is met by sales from Karnataka at Rs 400-405 delivered anywhere in India on cash-and-carry basis. On the NMCE, October and November contracts increased by Rs 179 and Rs 140 a quintal, respectively, to Rs 43,400 and Rs 43,563. Total open interest decreased by three tonnes to 28 tonnes. Total turnover went up by 28 tonnes to 45 tonnes. On IPSTA also,

the turnover increased by 4 tonnes to 26 tonnes. October and November contracts moved up by Rs 133 and Rs 67 respectively to Rs 43,332 and Rs 43,480.

# Business Standard

**Wheat output seen at record high this year: Pawar**

**Adequate soil moisture left following late monsoon rain in major growing regions to contribute to growth**



India's [wheat output](#) is set to touch a record high this [rabi season](#), owing to adequate soil moisture following the late [monsoon](#) in major growing areas.

Agriculture Minister [Sharad Pawar](#) has estimated this season, wheat production would exceed the record 94.9 million tonnes (mt) in the 2011-12 crop year (July-June). In the 2012-13 crop year, production had declined to 92.5 mt.

"The government hopes this rabi season, wheat production would achieve another milestone, given the right amount of moisture available in the soil and various interventions by the central and state governments," Pawar said.

He added wheat productivity had increased manifold through the years. Against 0.8 tonnes a hectare in 1947, productivity now stands at three tonnes a hectare. India, a net importer till a few years ago, is now the second-largest wheat producer and exporter.

This year, the onset of the southwest monsoon was on time and most areas have recorded normal rains. However, in some areas in Bihar, Jharkhand and the Northeast, rainfall was 20-30 per cent of the long-period average. Pawar said good rains in July and August had raised hopes

of a bumper harvest this year, adding a dry September would help the rice crop mature well in north India.

Against last year's kharif foodgrain production of 128.2 mt, this year, production was pegged at 129.32 mt, according to the first advance estimate. Record production in last few years had given confidence to policymakers to roll out the ambitious food security Bill, Pawar said.

However, he added there was a need to encourage crop diversification and change cropping patterns, with appropriate supporting prices and marketing mechanisms, he said. This year, the government had provided Rs 500 crore towards enhancing productivity, he said.

Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh had already prepared an action plan to divert at least five per cent of the paddy fields to other alternative crops. For this, state procurement machinery was being strengthened and the regions facing challenges on this front were getting central and state government assistance, Pawar said. States were also being urged to introduce marketing reforms in line with the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Act to enable farmers to sell products without the intervention of mandis, he added.

An increase in agricultural production would have to primarily be accounted for by enhancement in productivity. Therefore, India would have to adopt scientific management of inputs, use quality seeds and efficiently use fertilisers and water resources, Pawar said.

### **Cardamom up 0.5% on spot demand**

**Tight stocks position in the spot market also contributes to the rise**



**Cardamom** prices rose by 0.49% to Rs 751.10 a kg in futures trade today as traders enlarged their commitments, supported by a pick-up in export and domestic demand.

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

### Potato up 1.7% as demand picks up

Commodity for delivery in April moved up by 1.3%



At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in October rose by Rs 3.70, or 0.49%, to Rs 751.10 a kg, with a business turnover of 358 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in November edged up by Rs 2.10, or 0.26%, to Rs 792.40 a kg in 34 lots.

Potato rose by 1.70% to Rs 840 a quintal in futures trade today as traders enlarged their holdings on account of a surge in the demand for the commodity in the market.

Besides, restricted arrivals from producing regions also supported the upside.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for delivery in March-2014 rose by Rs 14.10, or 1.70%, to Rs 840 a quintal, with trading volume of 70 lots.

The potato for delivery in April also moved up by Rs 10.70, or 1.35%, to Rs 802 a quintal, with a trade volume of 13 lots.

Analysts said increased demand in the spot market against tight supplies from producing regions mainly pushed up potato prices at futures trade.

### Crude palm oil down 0.9% on weak overseas cues

**Palm oil prices for delivery in September declined by 0.61%**



Crude palm oil prices fell by 0.98% to 522.70 per 10 kg in futures trade today on selling by speculators and adequate stocks position in the spot market amid a weakening overseas trend.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude palm oil for October delivery fell by Rs 5.20, or 0.98%, to Rs 522.70 per 10 kg, with a trade volume of 229 lots.

Similarly, oil prices for delivery in September declined by Rs 3.30, or 0.61%, to Rs 531.50 per 10 kg, with a trading volume of 100 lots.

Traders said selling by speculators amid a weakening overseas trend and adequate stocks position in domestic markets mainly weighed on crude palm oil prices in the futures trade.

In Malaysia, palm oil declined to the lowest level in more than six weeks as a fall in crude prices reduced the appeal of vegetable oils as biofuel feedstock and the pace of exports slowed, the second-biggest producer.

Meanwhile, palm dropped 1.10% to 2,268 706 dollar a metric ton on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange.

### Coriander down 2% on adequate supply

**Commodity for November month delivery declined by 1.8%**

Coriander prices fell by Rs 115 to Rs 5,512 per quintal in the futures trade today as traders booked profits on the back of subdued demand in the spot markets.





Decline in the demand for the commodity in the market against the adequate supply of coriander from the producing belts mainly influenced the market sentiment.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, coriander for October month contract fell by Rs 115, or 2.04% to Rs 5,512 per quintal with an open interest of 18,110 lots.

The commodity for November month delivery declined by Rs 108, or 1.87%, to Rs 5,660 per quintal with an open interest of 8,000 lots.

Marketmen said in addition to profit-booking by speculators at existing higher levels, subdued demand in the spot market led to the decline in Coriander futures prices.