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BusinessLine

Heritage Foods sees boost from value added products

Heritage Foods Ltd is seeking to increase its business from value added products to 40 per cent from the current 24 per cent.

It has charted out a strategy to achieve a turnover of ₹6,000 crore by 2022. The company recently announced a strategic tie-up with French dairy company Novandie for value added products and a proposal to set up a new unit through the venture.

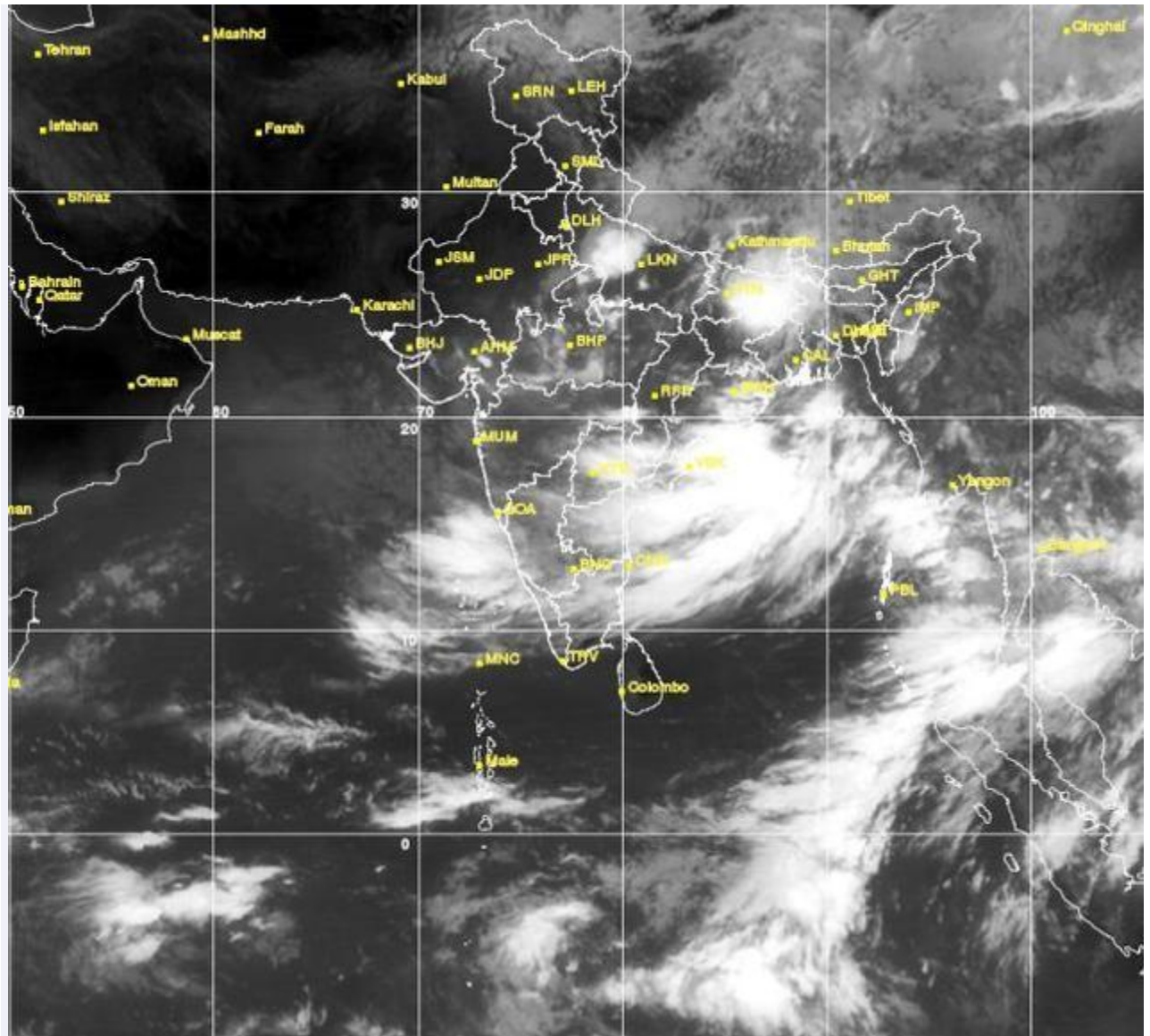
Heritage, founded by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, organised its silver jubilee celebrations recently.

For Q1 FY17, the company reported a 32 per cent increase in revenue and attributed it to rebranding and acquisition of the Reliance Dairy business.

With a bigger market presence, Heritage Foods has emerged a national player after its entry into western markets, it said.

(This article was published on August 27, 2017)

Monsoon readies to enter active phase after storms roar near-east, far-west



27.08.2017/04.15Z. Satellite image source: IMD.

Close on the heels of two violent storms churning up the waters to its far-west and near-east, the Bay of Bengal is now signs of fresh activity, though much lesser intensity to deserve comparison.

But that is not to rule out its rain generating capacity for many parts of North-East and East India, Central and Peninsular India, an India Met Department (IMD) update indicated.

Strong cyclones

During the past week, typhoon Hato had rammed into Hong Kong and Southern China as a category-3 storm while hurricane Harvey roared into Texas on south-west US coast as a stronger category-4 storm.

Normally, these types of powerful storms (cyclones) do not form in either of the seas in the subcontinent (Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal) during the peak of the monsoon.

Instead, sea-based weather systems of lesser intensity - low-pressure areas or depressions - take on the responsibility for transporting moisture from these seas to precipitate as rain over land.

It is in this context that the IMD forecast of a fresh low-pressure area likely developing in the Bay needs to be assessed, something that was in the making as per advance forecasts.

The 'low' would shape up by tomorrow, and two preparatory cyclonic circulations are hovering in the region, which would merge to set up the larger system.

Heavy rain forecast

The IMD forecast for anticipated rainfall from the brewing low-pressure area indicates a rather expansive area under coverage.

As for today, it has forecast heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places over Odisha; Konkan & Goa; heavy over Himachal Pradesh; Uttarakhand; Uttar Pradesh; East Rajasthan; Madhya Pradesh; Vidarbha; Chhattisgarh; Bengal; Assam & Meghalaya and the rest of the North-Eastern States; North Coastal Andhra Pradesh; Gujarat; Madhya Maharashtra; Telangana; Karnataka and Kerala.

The rain will scale up tomorrow and the day after, with heavy to very rain and isolated extremely heavy rain for Gujarat; Konkan & Goa; Saurashtra & Kutch; rest of Central India; and South Peninsula.

Meanwhile, the IMD has pointed to the presence of a core of sub-tropical westerly jet winds across Jammu, which does not augur well for further coverage of the monsoon over that region.

It remains to be seen if this would signal the process of the withdrawal of the monsoon from the North-West, which normally sets off from around September 1 (four days from now).

(This article was published on August 27, 2017)

Business Standard

Tomato prices fall sharply, onion also dips

Similarly, onion prices have fallen as farmers harvested pre-matured crops for better realisation



The price data maintained by the ministry also showed a sharp increase in prices of tomato in the last one week. Photo: Reuters

Tomato prices declined by up to 71 per cent over the last four weeks on a sharp increase in arrivals following farmers' attempts to harvest the half-ripened vegetable to cash in on the spurt.

The price of fresh tomato in the Mumbai wholesale markets slumped to Rs 22 a kg on Thursday from Rs 75 a kg a month ago. Prices fell by over 18 per cent in the Delhi wholesale mandi to trade at Rs 35 a kg from Rs 42.5 a kg on July 24.

Prices of tomato and onion and other green vegetables had spiked in the middle of July due to heavy rainfall.

“Farmers across the country have started harvesting the pre-matured crop. Tomato farmers have increased supply from Karnataka, Telangana and Gujarat. Supply from Maharashtra has also started,” said Shri Ram Gadhave, president, Vegetables Grower Association of India.

Tomato prices had hit a record Rs 100 in retail markets, which prompted the government to call for a contingency plan. Farmers were asked to bring in their early harvested crop for better realisation.

Early this year, farmers dumped a huge quantity of tomato on roads and also left some of the crop unharvested as realisation dipped to Rs 1 a kg. Large farmers and stockists failed to store the commodity in cold storages, resulting in a shortage in July.

“Tomato supply has started coming in from all across the country. Farmers in Maharashtra have also reported a huge quantity of harvest of pre-matured crop,” said an official with the Agricultural Produce Markets Committee (APMC), Vashi, near Mumbai. Half-ripened tomato is being sold at Rs 20-22 a kg in wholesale markets.

The agriculture ministry projects India’s tomato output at 19.69 million tonnes in 2016-17 (July-June), up from 18.73 million tonnes in the previous year.

Onion traded at Rs 17 a kg in the Lasalgaon mandi on Thursday, a decline of 31 per cent from its recent peak of Rs 24.50 a kg on August 10. To prevent a further price rise, Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan had recommended a minimum export price and stock limits on onion.

India’s onion output is projected at 21.56 million tonnes in 2016-17, up from 20.93 million tonnes a year ago.

Ajit Shah, president of the Horticulture Exporters Association, however, sees no major exports happening at the current price of onion.

According to the National Horticulture Research and Development Foundation, India’s onion exports tripled to 3.49 million tonnes in 2016-17 from 1.11 million tonnes in the previous year.

SOME RESPITE

TOMATOES	Arrival(qrtl)		Modal price (₹/qrtl)		Price change in %
	Jul 24, '17	Aug 24, '17	Jul 24, '17	Aug 24, '17	
Mumbai	2,267	2,131	7,500	2,200	-70.7
Surat	700	1,300	5,750	3,125	-45.7
Jaipur	955	2,041	6,000	4,500	-25.0
Bowenpally(Telangana)	2,647	1,768	5,000	3,800	-24.0
Kolkata	750	1,050	6,850	5,250	-23.4
Chennai	3,500	4,400	4,800	3,700	-22.9
Delhi	1,880	2,902	4,244	3,466	-18.3

NO MORE TEARS

ONIONS	Arrival(qrtl)		Modal price (₹/qrtl)		Price change in %
	Jul 24, '17	Aug 24, '17	Jul 24, '17	Aug 24, '17	
Pimpalgaon (MS)	31,696	23,000	2,400	1,600	-33.33
Lasalgaon (MS)	15,000	15,000	2,450	1,700	-30.61
Kolkata	1,400	3,360	3,425	2,507	-26.80
Kurnool (AP)	2,519	7,133	2,200	1,790	-18.64
Chandigarh	630	1,373	2,150	1,800	-16.28
Kanpur (UP)	3,500	1,600	1,675	1,500	-10.45
Chennai	4,800	5,200	2,900	2,600	-10.34

Compiled by BS Research Bureau

Source: NHRDF