

DEFICIT RAIN, SHORTAGE OF QUALITY SEEDS HIT COTTON PRODUCE AGAIN

Farmers suffered losses due to drought situation in the state last year

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

THERE seems to be no end to cotton growers' woes. After suffering from crop loss due to the drought in the previous year, they now face scarcity of good quality seeds along with the delay in pre-monsoon rains.

Farming community in HD Kote and Nanjangud taluks, known for producing cotton, in Mysuru district are a worried lot. In normal situation, the cotton sowing is completed by April end in HD Kote, Gundlupet and Nanjangud. With the delay in the pre-monsoon show-

ers, less than 20 per cent of the farmers have taken up cotton cultivation this season in the region.

The country is staring at the scarcity of cotton seeds as over 50 per cent of cotton crops failed leading to a direct impact on procuring and supplying of high-quality seeds to the farming community.

During 2023, the long dry spell had hit cotton cultivation hitting seed production by 40 per cent in the country in northern states including Rajasthan and Punjab, observed seed traders.

They fear that if similar situation continues, cotton production

may also fall in the current year.

The trust deficit of farmers in a few new brands has made them run from pillar to post and knock at the dealers of seed companies demanding the best variety. Farmers, who had harvested bumper crop and had the highest yield during 2021-22, are in no mood to try new brands that have flooded the market, following complaints of crop failure and low yield in a few areas.

However, rains from the last couple of days in HD Kote, Nanjangud and other places have made a few farmers try their luck by sowing seeds now.

Ashok, a farmer, said they had sowed four varieties of seeds as they could not get Puli brand seed that is of great demand. The delay in pre-monsoon showers have also added to their worry. Meanwhile, he hoped that they may get a good price this year as cotton cultivation area in the region has reduced when compared to the previous year.

"Many farmers are in no mood to try new varieties fearing that they may end up in losses and eventually land up in debt," he said.

Agriculture department joint director Chandrashekar said the cotton sowing is worst hit due to deficiency in pre-monsoon showers during April. He said the delayed sowing would not fetch them a better yield.

"There is no stock of Puli brand seeds which are in great demand for its bumper yield. We have told farmers to try other varieties as seeds are scarce due to severe drought during the last year. The farmers had to wait long for rains and also for the seeds this season," he admitted.



Farmers sow cotton seeds in a field at Saragur village in Mysuru on Friday | EXPRESS

There is no stock of Puli brand seeds which are in great demand for its bumper yield. We have told farmers to try other varieties as seeds are scarce due to severe drought during last year - Chandrashekar, Agriculture dept joint director

Siddu hails Moraji Desai school toppers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

CHIEF Minister Sidaramaiah, who arrived in the city after a short break for rejuvenation in Ooty following hectic Lok Sabha election campaigning in across the state hailed the toppers in SSLC exams from Morarji Desai Residential School in Mysuru on Friday. The results for the SSLC exams were out on Thursday.

He said Morarji Desai Residential Schools were started in 1994 following demand from the Dalit Sangharsha Samithi, to impart quality education to the students from rural areas. The government has opened 900 Morarji Desai Residential Schools in all hobbis of the state. He congratulated the girl students for faring better than boys in the SSLC examination.

Ex-MLC opposes scrapping of NEP

ENS @ Mangaluru

FORMER MLC Arun Shapahur condemned scrapping of New Education Policy (NEP) in Karnataka by the state government and objected to take a decision on this, based on an interim report submitted by the Sukhdev Thorat led Committee.

Addressing a press conference in Mangaluru on Friday, former MLC said that "The Karnataka Government has decided to go ahead with its own State Education Policy and it has set up a Sukhdev Thorat Committee. The committee has submitted an interim report to the state government. I oppose the findings of this interim report. The report has not been made public thus far, and there is no proper information regarding the same," he said. He further said: "Even the UGC seems to be unaware of these developments, also there is no update on the interim report being discussed and debated in any universities. The students who are currently studying under the National Education Policy are facing no issues whatsoever."

TNIE IMPACT

Faulty cold storage at KR Hospital mortuary fixed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

A day after The New Indian Express reported about dysfunctional cold storage unit at the mortuary in the state-run KR Hospital, dean and director of MMCR Dr Dakshayani served a notice to concerned officials and got the unit fixed.

On May 9, TNIE published a report 'KR Hospital mortuary raises a stink' highlighting how in the midst of preparations for a grand centenary year celebration of Mysore Medical College and Research Institutions (MMCRI), the mortuary at the KR Hospital, an integral part of the MMCR, has been grappling with a major setback as its cold storage has been non-operational which had led to a pungent odour permeating the area, much to the dismay of visitors and the anguish of grieving families.

Upon receiving information on the lapse, Dr Dakshayani served notice to the officials concerned and staff who failed to bring the issue to her notice. As soon as she gathered information about the issue, she ordered for purchase of spare parts including compressors, starting kits and other essentials to fix it.

"We have fixed the unit by procuring spare parts from Tamil Nadu. The performance of the unit is being monitored and it will be operational on regular basis from Saturday," she informed.



Compressor being installed to fix the faulty cold storage at KR Hospital's mortuary in Mysuru on Friday | EXPRESS

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Dr Dakshayani, MMCR dean and director

CHANGE OF NAME I, T.P. PUSHPALATHA is legally wedded spouse of No. 14401891K Rank Nk Name Raghunatha B K presently residing at No.1, Teacher's Layout, Ramakrishna Paramahansa Block, Mysuru - 570029 have changed my name from PUSHPALATHA T.P. to T.P. PUSHPALATHA vide affidavit dated 10-05-2024 before Notary Akbar Sharif, Mysore.

गणितीय विज्ञान संस्थान, चेन्नई THE INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES CHENNAI (Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India) May 08, 2024 विज्ञान संस्था / Advt No. 20-R/IMSc/2024 IMSc is inviting applications for filling up of Project positions & Administrative Trainees purely on contract basis on consolidated salary. For more details, please visit "Opportunities Page" of our website https://www.imsc.res.in/other_positions.

MUTHOOTH FINCORP LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE Regd. Office: Muthooth Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427 Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 30.06.2023 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 30.09.2023 and MSGB, SME Suvams & EMI due up to 31.03.2024 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far inspite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 22.05.2024 from 10 am onwards.



FOR PROSPERITY & GOOD LUCK

Women buy gold on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya in Kolar on Friday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

Sweets, sarees, dhotis distributed by MLA Roopa's supporters on her b'day

KGF: Across KGF, Congress workers and leaders celebrated their leader Roopa Kala Shashidhar's birthday in a grand manner by distributing sweets in their respective areas. Swarna Nagar councillor Karunakaran distributed sarees and dhotis to residents in his ward besides arranging food in front of the MLA's residence. Earlier, Roopa performed puja in the famous Sri Uthandi Amman Temple followed by participating in cake cutting event organised by her supporters and party workers. Even fruits were distributed in general hospital to inpatients.