Strength to Farmers... Strength to the Nation

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El Niño Effect Hits Custard Apple Crop

Production Expected to Fall by 60–70 % This Season

- Extreme heat causes flower drop
- Supply to Hyderabad markets sharply declines
- Usually 150–200 metric tonnes arrive daily
- This season's total output may be only 12,000 metric tonnes
- Prices range from ₹200 to ₹300 per kg



> *Only three small fruits for ₹50. We have to spend ₹200 to ₹300 per kg now.*
>
> — Meena, Buyer

Hyderabad, Nov 03 (T Media):

The El Niño impact has severely affected the custard apple (sitaphal) crop this year. Due to prolonged heat, flowers have dropped, and the limited harvest has also lost quality. The usual large quantities from various states to Hyderabad markets have almost disappeared. Traders say the overall arrival of custard apples is likely to decline by 60–70% this season.

Though small quantities are reaching the markets, neither the quality nor the prices are satisfactory. Fruit prices for common consumers have risen sharply. In markets, three small fruits are being sold for ₹50, while the price per kg is ranging from ₹200 to ₹300.

Horticulture Students Stand by Farmers



Siddipet, Nov 03 (T Media): Students from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) visited the Horticulture University at Mulugu in Siddipet district. They said they are working with a goal to develop new crop varieties and design high-yield, profitable farming models.

The students, though not from farming families, have a strong desire to support farmers and the farming community. They chose agriculture as their field of study with a commitment to serve farmers and society. The B.Sc. Agriculture students are on a field visit as part of their academic training.

Information on Timber Species

Horticulture scientist Ashish, from the ICAR centre at Beeramguda, Hyderabad, explained about timber species such as bamboo, red sandalwood, mahogany, and teak, along with different varieties of mango and grafting techniques.

Their Contribution to Society

The students said the visit to Mulugu Horticulture University helped them learn many new things. They appreciated the detailed guidance from the scientists and stated that the knowledge gained would help them contribute to the farming community and society at large.

Paddy Stacks Submerged in Rainwater



Medak / Siddipet, Nov 03 (T Media): Heavy rains lashed several mandals in Medak and Siddipet districts on Saturday evening, leaving paddy dried in open areas soaked in rainwater.

In Medak mandal, and in Rampur, Kishtapur, Pothanshettipalli, Choutapur, Appajipalli and Chinnaghanpur villages of Kolcharam mandal, as well as in Tupran, Chegunta and Papannet mandals, moderate to heavy rains were recorded. At the IKP procurement centre in Kolcharam, a downpour for nearly an hour flooded the premises. Large quantities of paddy kept for drying were submerged in water, with water stagnating around the heaps, causing severe hardship to farmers.

Laxity at Procurement Centres

At the agricultural market yard in Tupran, dried paddy was washed away by rainwater and mixed with mud. In Ghanpur, maize kept for drying was also soaked. Farmers expressed anguish that although procurement centres were set up about a week ago, weighing has not yet begun. They said that despite the weather department's warning about rain due to the cyclone effect, officials did not supply tarpaulins, resulting in heavy crop loss. Farmers are urging officials to immediately start procurement and purchase the wet paddy without any conditions.