



The Fertiliser Association of India

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Current News

Current news on the latest developments in fertiliser, energy, weather, agriculture, agri-business, logistics, economy, and other related areas

(The views expressed in the news items are not necessarily of FAI)

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WEATHER

Low-pressure likely over north-west next week

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (Ecmwf) has maintained the outlook for an incoming western disturbance that will induce a low-pressure area to spin up over north-west India next week.

The Global Forecast System model of the US Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Centre, too, has largely agreed with the Ecmwf outlook.

SECONDARY SYSTEMS

Western disturbances of strong (active) intensity are known to induce the formation of secondary circulations and low-pressure areas over Rajasthan as they move east over north-west and north India.

The latest Ecmwf forecasts indicate that the 'low' may spin up on March 17 and proceed south-south-east from Rajasthan to head for central India where it will stay anchored over Madhya Pradesh on March 19, up to which forecasts were available on Tuesday.

This is expected to help modify the ambient temperature over north-west India to within tolerable limits for the standing rabi wheat crop until March 20 and even slightly beyond, if forecast trends from the Climate Prediction Centre of the US National Weather Services are any indication.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) update said that a western disturbance had crossed in from north Pakistan and adjoining Jammu and Kashmir to lie parked over Jammu and Kashmir and the neighbourhood. The system is expected to move east-north-eastwards and out of the country. The induced cyclonic circulation traced to over Punjab and the neighbourhood on Monday had become less marked.

TEMPERATURE FALLS

The intervening period between the exit and entry of back-to-back western disturbances had led maximum and minimum temperatures to fall by about 2-3 deg Celsius over many parts of north-west and central India.

While the exiting system had led cooler north-westerlies and westerlies to fill the plains, the steaming head of the incoming system had warmed up the atmosphere. Strong north-westerly to westerly winds are prevailing over parts of Indo-Gangetic plains.

The update said that the overnight trough/wind discontinuity running from Orissa to south Tamil Nadu had shifted alignment to interior Karnataka through Telangana.

Satellite imagery on Tuesday showed low-to-medium clouds (partly clouded conditions) over parts of the western Himalayan region, Orissa, north coastal Andhra Pradesh, the north-eastern States and the Bay of Bengal.

IMD said that a fresh but feeble western disturbance is likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and Saturday. It also saw the possibility of a confluence of winds over north Maharashtra and adjoining Telangana just ahead of the arrival of the system.

Isolated rain or thundershowers have been forecast over parts of the Northeastern States during the next three days. The trough or wind discontinuity and the confluence of winds in the region are likely to cause isolated rain or thundershower over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Orissa.

Isolated light rain or thundershowers may occur over Madhya Maharashtra and the adjoining parts of Madhya Pradesh, south Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha. No significant change in minimum and maximum temperatures is indicated over northwest, central and east India during the next two days but they could head gradually up thereafter.

Forecast until Sunday said that isolated rain or thundershowers were likely over Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and extreme south peninsular India.

Source: The Hindu Business Line, Wednesday, March 10, 2010

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ENERGY

Price of Petroleum Products as on 09-03-2010

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Naphtha (Spot) Rs/MT | 37042.78 |
| LSHS (Spot) Rs/MT | 28292.94 |
| Furnace Oil (Spot) Rs/MT | 26794.83 |

Source: Business Standard, Wednesday, March 10, 2010

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FERTILISER

Govt keen on free fertiliser imports

Open general licence for import of deregulated phosphate and potash fertilisers

After de-controlling the prices of fertilisers containing phosphorous and potash from April 1 this year, the government is planning to encourage their free imports. Now, most of the country's requirement is met through imports by state-owned entities like Indian Phosphate Ltd and co-operatives like Iffco.

Nitrogen releasing fertiliser urea, the price of which has been raised by 10% from April, will continue to be imported and sold by state trading entities initially.

The government will soon place the import of deregulated phosphate and potash fertilisers in the open general licence, which allows their free imports, minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Srikant Kumar Jena said. This is expected to encourage private trading houses to strike attractive supply deals in global markets. They will also be eligible for subsidies based on the nutrient value of the product. Nearly 90% of phosphorous and all of potash needed in the country are met through imports.

The minister said it will closely watch and regulate the supply of one-fifth of the locally made and imported phosphate and potash fertilisers to ensure their availability in far flung areas. The government will subsidise fertiliser producers running on naphtha-based plants for two years after which they are expected to switch over to natural gas-based plants, the ministry said.

The government last month de-regulated the prices of phosphate and potash fertilisers and raised the price of urea by 10% to Rs 5,310 a metric tonne expecting that the subsidy burden on the nitrogen fertiliser will not go up. An inter-ministerial panel will now fix the subsidy for various nutrients and compute the total subsidy for a kg of fertiliser.

Although the prices of phosphate and potash fertilisers were de-regulated, the government expects it to move in a range without hurting the farmer. If prices shoot up unnaturally, the government will intervene by first raising the subsidy element. If that does not work, it would not hesitate in using its powers to fix retail prices, a ministry official told FE.

Source: The Financial Express, Wednesday, March 10, 2010

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES- Tuesday, March 09, 2010 at 16.55 (IST)

| Currency Name | Sell | | Buy | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | TT | Bill | TT | Bill |
| Dollar | 45.67 | 45.70 | 45.58 | 45.57 |
| Euro | 61.95 | 61.99 | 61.84 | 61.82 |
| 100 Yen | 50.86 | 50.90 | 50.76 | 50.75 |

Source: The Hindu Business Line, Wednesday, March 10, 2010

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