

SUGAR

KM Sugar Mills standalone Jun '16 sales at Rs 103.84 crore

KM Sugar Mills has reported a standalone total income from operations of Rs 103.84 crore and a net profit of Rs 11.43 crore for the quarter ended Jun '16. For the quarter ended Jun 2015 the standalone total income from operations was Rs 72.07 crore and net loss was Rs 3.55 crore. KM Sugar Mills shares closed at 11.10 on August 12, 2016 (NSE) and has given 200.00% returns over the last 6 months and 441.46% over the last 12 months.

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/km-sugar-mills-standalone-jun-16-sales-at-rs-103-84-crore/>, published on 16th August, 2016)

Devendra Fadnavis prescribes drip irrigation for sugarcane, solar-powered pumps

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Tuesday set a target of bringing three lakh hectares of sugarcane under drip irrigation by 2016-17 and the remaining in two to three years. The total sugarcane cultivation in Maharashtra is 10 lakh hectares, of which only 2.5 lakh hectares are covered under drip irrigation.

Fadnavis convened a meeting to work out the strategy to enforce the state government's water conservation project under the banner of "per drop per crop".

Another proposal discussed relates to shifting of agriculture pump connections from thermal power to solar energy in phases. The primary report indicates that the massive subsidies to agriculture sectors (sugarcane included) can be utilised for investments in the solar sector. Although the solar sector has initial high cost, it is less expensive once infrastructure is in place.

Fadnavis held the meeting with the department of water conservation and the department of power.

Last week, Fadnavis, during his visit to Raigaon (district Sangli) visited a drip irrigation project. Almost 1553 farmers came together to adopt the hi-tech automated drip irrigation project across 2009 hectares. The farmers' income per 1,000 litres of water in crop cultivation worked out to Rs 2.79 using the traditional method of floor irrigation. But after they adopted drip irrigation, the income went up by Rs 13.22.

The drip irrigation technology is based on Israeli model where computerised sensor equipment can read the temperature, humidity and nutrient levels in soil. It can also regulate flow of water assessing requirements based on climatic conditions. It also has an in-built system to allow water to reach the roots to ensure better growth. The automated drip irrigation mechanism helps maximise water use to cover a larger area of irrigation. While citing examples from drip irrigation projects, Fadnavis told officials, "The entire 9.43 lakh hectares of sugarcane cultivation should be brought under drip irrigation in the next two to three years."

He indicated that less expensive drip irrigation projects on a smaller scale can cover other crops including horticulture. From overall assessment of various studies by agriculture universities and farmers groups, it has come to light that crops that are better water-regulated give higher yields and financial returns.

Among aspects under consideration include tapping of private firms to work out drip irrigation models that could be more climate friendly and less expensive.

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/devendra-fadnavis-prescribes-drip-irrigation-for-sugarcane-solar-powered-pumps/>, published on 17th August, 2016)

Sugarcane farmers switch to eco-friendly single-bud farming

To save the soil from ill-effects of pesticides, some farmers in Bijnor are switching to environment-friendly single-bud technique for sugarcane farming. The initiative will not only reduce the use of pesticides but will also lessen the use of water.

“Single-bud will be placed in trenches horizontally in September when there are no rains and will be put vertically during the rainy month of August. Germination takes place faster and light application of water in this method saves water by 50%,” said OP Singh, district cane officer.

In this method, sugarcane is not infected by diseases easily and 10 % less seed is also used. “If the farmers adopt this method in the district, it will be beneficial for them as well as the environment. Besides this, we can use vacant space for growing pulses in the field,” Singh said.

Single-bud sugarcane farming was first practised by four farmers of the district, Brahampal Singh, Gurdas Singh, Balram Singh and Jai Singh, which gained success and has now been adopted by sugarcane department for training other farmers here.

According to sugarcane department, Bijnor district has the maximum area under cane cultivation in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, the department had used trench technique to increase yield of sugarcane.

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/sugarcane-farmers-switch-to-eco-friendly-single-bud-farming/>, published on 16th August, 2016)

Co-gen/Power

Nationwide powermen strike on September 2 against Electricity (Amendment) Bill

Public sector power employees have announced a nationwide strike on September 2 over the Electricity (Amendment) Bill. In a meeting held on July 24, National Co-ordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) flayed the Centre for allegedly failing to address the burning issues of the energy sector even as they labeled the Bill as anti-people.

The powermen had earlier sought discussion on the modified Electricity (Amendment) Bill with all the stakeholders for an "amicable settlement of the issues".

The meeting at New Delhi was attended by the representatives of Electricity Employees Federation of India, Indian National Electricity Workers Federation, All India Federation of Electricity Employees, All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), TNEB Workers Union, All India Power Men's Federation (AIPF) and All India Federation of Diploma Engineers.

AIPEF Chairman Shailendra Dubey said NCCOEEE resolution mentioned that the central government was playing hide and seek on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill.

The government claimed it had referred the modified Electricity (Amendment) Bill to the states, but the states were yet to receive the copy of the amended bill, he said. "The government should give a copy of the modified Bill to the major stakeholders, including employees and engineers, so that fruitful discussion can take place."

NCCOEEE maintained the cost of supply of power supply was increasing due to the "conspiracy" of private players, who have established domination in the power sector in the name of independent power producers (IPP), traders, franchisees and contractors for electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

The outsourcing of jobs in power sector not only leads to the exploitation of workers, but compromises the quality of work, Dubey noted.

He informed NCCOEEE had decided to launch massive campaign against the Bill as it would provide huge profit to private companies at the cost of the exchequer.

(Source-<http://www.kseboa.org/news/nationwide-powermen-strike-on-september-2-against-electricity-amendment-bill-03084327.html>)

ETHANOL

Sugar mills object to withdrawal of exemption on ethanol levy

The Western India Sugar Mills Association (WISMA) has appealed to the Centre to intervene and restore the exemption granted earlier on the levy on ethanol in the interests of the sugar industry.

In a representation sent to the chairman of the Central Excise and Customs, the association has objected to the withdrawal of the exemption since this would have an impact on the committed supplies for the industry producing ethanol from molasses generated from cane crushed in the sugar season of 2015-16. The exemption was issued by the Central Excise and Customs in June 2015.

BB Thombare, president, WISMA, pointed out that when the companies have already invested based on the government's commitment in arranging procurement, created inventory and taken loans and are yet to use two-thirds of the planned supplies of ethanol using this exemption, the sudden withdrawal would cause irreparable loss.

While the government cannot go back on its commitment, it only shakes the confidence of the companies who are producing ethanol, who are the conduits to implement government's policy apart from suffering losses for no fault of theirs, he pointed out. The mills said that this government policy was against the principles of natural justice and the fundamental right of the company to carry on business based on certain assurances given by the government.

The millers said that in order to implement the spirit of the exemption given by the government and support oil companies to enable 10% blending of ethanol with petrol the sugar industry offered more committed supplies of ethanol to OMCs (oil marketing companies) through the tender process.

The sugar industry had to take the decision to quote for the tender for committed supplies based on such exemption afforded with particular restriction of producing ethanol only out of molasses generated out of cane crushed the sugar season of 2015-16. Hence, all the members

of the industry are not only bound by such quantum of production but are also to ensure such committed supplies, failing which OMCs could impose penalty of 7.5% of the price for the delay in supply. Further, every individual supplier needs to block huge inventory in terms of carrying molasses or intermediary output made from such molasses all of which has cost and consequences, Rohit Pawar, vice president, WISMA, said.

(Source- <http://sugarnews.in/sugar-mills-object-to-withdrawal-of-exemption-on-ethanol-levy/>, published on 17th August, 2016)

Quote of the day

'Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence.'

- Colin Powell