# ಹೈಬ್ರಿಡ್ ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಬೀಜದ ಬೆಲೆ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟು

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ಅಡುಗೆ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂಪರ್ ಆದಾಯ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಇದೀಗ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಬೀಜದ ಬೆಲೆ ಏಕಾಏಕಿ ದುಪ್ಪಟ್ಟಾಗಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಇಕ್ಕಟ್ಟು ಎದುರಾಗಿದೆ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಬೆಳೆಯನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುವುದು ಗುಂಡ್ಲುಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ. ಯುಗಾದಿ ನಂತರ ಬೀಳುವ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಪೂರ್ವದ ಮಳೆಗೆ ನಾನಾ ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆ ಪೈಕಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಳೆಯಾದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಬಿತ್ತನೆಮಾಡಲು ತಯಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



- ಅಡುಗೆ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಎಫೆಕ್ಟ್ ಬಿತ್ತನೆಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ರೈತರಿಗೆ ಇಕ್ಕಟ್ಟು
- ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಬೀಜ ದರ 1,200 ರೂ. ಗಳಿಂದ 2,400 ರೂ.ಗೆ ಜಿಗಿತ

ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬೀಜ ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಬೀಜವನ್ನು ರೈತರು ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಪರಿಪಾಠ ಇದೆ. ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷ 2 ಕೆ.ಜಿ ತೂಕದ ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಬೀಜದ ಬೆಲೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 1200 ರೂ. ಇತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ವರ್ಷ 2400 ರೂ. ಬೆಲೆ ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೃಷಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷ ತಾಲೂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ 14296 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂರ್ಯಕಾಂತಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಶೇ.10ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯವರು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

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# ಮಳೆಗೆ ತೊಯ್ದ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ, 30 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ನಷ್ಟ

**ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ:** ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆಯಿಂದ ನೂರಾರು ಟನ್ ಒಣ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ (ಮಣಕ) ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಯ್ದು 30 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ.ಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ನಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದ್ದು ರೈತರು ಕಣ್ಣೀರಿಡುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಎರಡನೇ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು 12 ಸಾವಿರ ಎಕರೆ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಬೆಳೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶವಿದ್ದು ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಗವಾಡ ತಾಲೂಕುಗಳದ್ದು ಸಿಂಹಪಾಲು. ಈ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಾಸರಿ 60-70 ಸಾವಿರ ಟನ್ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಬೆಳೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಶೇ.20ರಷ್ಟು ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಹಣ್ಣು ಮಾರಾಟವಾದರೆ ಶೇ.80ರಷ್ಟು ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಒಣ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕಳೆದ ಮೂರು ದಿನಗಳಿಂದ ಅಥಣಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಐನಾಪುರ ಅಡಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕೋಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕನಾಳ, ಬನ್ನೂರು, ಐಗಳಿ, ಬಾಡಗಿ, ಚಮಕೇರಿ, ಸಿಂಧೂರ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಸುತ್ತಲಿನ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಕ ಮಳೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು ಒಣಗಲು ಹಾಕಿದ್ದ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ನೀರಲ್ಲಿ ನೆನೆದು ತೊಪ್ಪೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ರುಚಿ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಲ್ಲದೆ ಫಂಗಸ್ ಬಂದು ಹಾಳಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಕೈಗೆ ಬಂದ ತುತ್ತು ಬಾಯಿಗೆ ಬರದಂತಾಗಿದ್ದು ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರು ತಲೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೈ ಹೊತ್ತು ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತೇಲುತ್ತಿರುವ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ.

ಅಕಾಲಿಕ ಮಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿರುಗಾಳಿಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅಪಾರ ಬೆಳೆ ನಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಪತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ (ಎನ್‌ಡಿಆರ್‌ಎಫ್) ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಬೇಕು.

**- ಶಹಜಹಾನ್ ಡೊಂಗರಗಾಂವ್**
ಮಾಜಿ ಶಾಸಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಥಣಿ ರೇಸಿನ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ಅಸೋಸಿಯೇಶನ್ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ

ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಬೆಳೆ ನಷ್ಟದ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಫಸಲ್ ಬಿಮಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನೀಡಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

**- ಶ್ವೇತಾ ಹಾಡ್ಕರ್**
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# Why did price of green chilli shoot up?

Ranganath K & Mrinialini Bhat | TNN



**Bengaluru:** The price of green chilli, which skyrocketed to Rs 120 per kg in Bengaluru two days ago, has dropped by half, providing much-needed respite to citizens.

On Wednesday, the price of green chill hovered around Rs 60-70 per kg. While price trackers maintain that the cost of green chilli might further go down, the big question is: Why did the kitchen staple touch a high of Rs 120 per kg?

Amjad Nawaz, a vegetable merchant at Shivajinagar's Russel Market, attributed it to the demand-supply force at play. "Green chillies have been in short supply for the last 45 days and prices have been fluctuating. Earlier, green chillies were brought from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, but now we are selling those that have been grown locally. The price of green chillies dropped a few months ago because of glut and that could have deterred farmers from growing more. Maybe this caused short supply now and pushed up prices."

Moreover, the spike timed with Ugadi festival as chilli farmers from neighbouring Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Bengaluru Rural district didn't bring their produce to the city. Venkatesh, a chilli trader at the APMC yard in Kolar, said there has been a decline in the arrival of green chillies in recent days. "Usually, around 90 to 100 bags (50 kg each) of chillies arrive daily at the Kolar AMPC yard for auctioning. But in the last one week, the number has come down to just around ten bags, forcing buyers to defer purchase," he said. He further said certain black spots are also noticed on chillies, rendering them unfit for consumption.

Vijayalakshmi, APMC secretary (Kolar), said rise in temperature in Kolar district has affected the crop.

# Suicidal caterpillars crave light

Higher and higher still, the cotton bollworm moth caterpillar climbs, scaling leaf after leaf. Reaching the top of a plant, it will die, facilitating the spread of the virus that steered it there.

One virus behind this deadly ascent manipulates genes associated with caterpillars' vision. As a result, the insects are more attracted to sunlight than usual, researchers report in *Molecular Ecology*.



Baculoviruses can infect more than 800 insect species, mostly caterpillars of moths and butterflies. Once infected, hosts exhibit "tree-top disease," compelled to climb before dying and leaving their infected cadavers for scavengers to feast upon.

How they turn caterpillars into zombies doomed to ascend to their own deaths wasn't understood.

When researchers surgically removed infected caterpillars' eyes and put the insects in the box, the blinded insects were attracted to the light a quarter as often as unaltered infected hosts. That suggested that the virus was using a caterpillar's vision against itself.

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# The wonderfully slow world of snails

ALAKANANDA BATNI

Not more than two decades ago, I played with snails on rainy days and would see them crawling abundantly on plants. My friends and I would collect them in glass bottles, treating them as pets.

It appears that snails have almost vanished from our gardens. Lush green landscapes and trees have dwindled to become a few patches of green separated by tall buildings in between.

Snails are vital for ecosystems. They eat litter from trees, plants, and dead animals, there by recycling nutrients. In the process, they also provide a source of calcium for animals in calcium poor regions.



With their many benefits, they are among the slowest creatures in the world. They are even slower than sloths. Crawling with the help of their muscular foot pulses loaded with mucous, they come in many shapes, colours and sizes.

The creatures can also act as bio-indicators. They are sensitive to any change in temperature, soil pH, calcium content or disturbance in their habits. These changes will bear an impact on the number and type of snails that appear at a location.

The smallest of land snails can fit inside a grain of sand, with a shell that is only 0.48 millimetres high. This microscopic species was discovered in Vietnam in February this year.

However fascinating these creatures are, research on snails from tropical countries, including India, occurred only in the mid-19th to early 20th century.

Even then, the focus was on developing an inventory of regional water snails but there was little emphasis on descriptions of their habitat, reproduction, feeding ecology and nutrient availability. The identification of snails during this time happened based on morphological characteristics. The chances of misidentification are high because of these reasons.

## Land snails

The research potential is huge. Land snails form 6% of the total species found around the world. Most snails known today are those found in Europe and North American countries. India is home to 1,140 species of land snails. The diversity of these molluscs is high in the Western Ghats and Northeast India, more than 75% of snail species are endemic to these regions.

One such snail, found in the Western Ghats, is arguably the most charismatic species. *Indrella ampulla* was originally discovered in the Niligiri Hills but is now found abundantly across the wet evergreen forests of central and southern Western Ghats. Interestingly, *Indrella ampulla* is the only species under the genus Indrella. It is polymorphic, predominantly exhibiting various colours including red and pale yellow.

A study by Dr Aravind Madhyastha, Associate Professor, ATREE on the feeding and reproductive habits of the species emphasises just how important researching these tiny slimy creatures is.

Descriptions of egg-laying, the size of the eggs and other specificities have been recorded for the first time in India. They also display shell mounting and face-to-face mating behaviours. The species was found to feed on both live and dead plants, they also feed on animal matter, and litter on the forest floor, showing broad food preferences. It is hypothesised that mushrooms and dead animals could be a source of dietary calcium.

This fascinating species also shifts in colour as they age—from dark to brighter yellow, red and orange. However, why they undergo this change remains a mystery.

To understand their variation and shifts in colour and to gain insight into their interesting diets, more research in laboratory and field conditions is the need of the hour. "DNA metabarcoding of faecal samples and gut content will help to understand the species' dietary health," says Dr Madhyastha.

Although there have been many studies on the impact of urban development on vertebrates and plants, there have been few on how snails have been affected.

To understand native species of snails and their ecology, population status, and phylogeny, research is essential. It is also essential to revise the old taxonomy with updated classifications.

To build more interest in snails, wider participation and engagement of nature enthusiasts to pursue snail-watching is important.

The India Biodiversity Portal has a dedicated page for enthusiasts and amateurs to report snails called—Mapping Indian Snails and Slugs (MISS). It would be worthwhile to encourage awareness and outreach activities on land snails to understand these wonderful bio-indicators better.

*(The author is with Research Matters)*