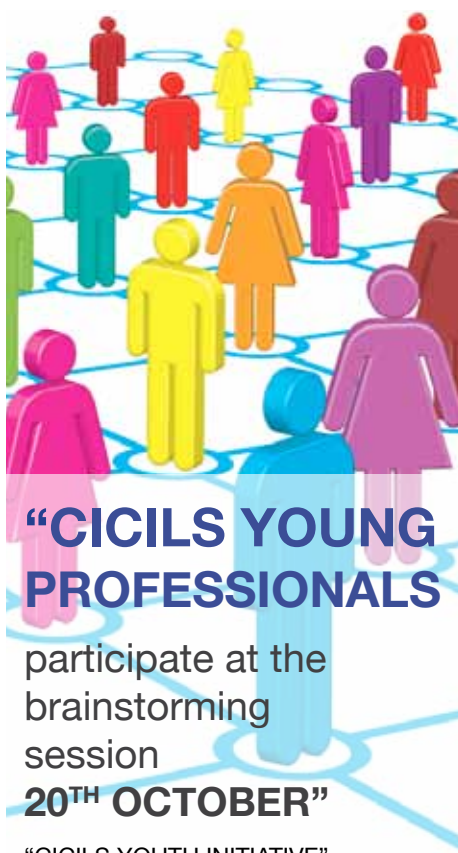


POD I - GRAIN 4 - NOVEMBER 2012



Economic and agricultural growth should be **“NUTRITION-SENSITIVE”**.

(Excerpts from FAO publication: The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012)



Extract From **Agriculture Today**
FABA BEANS MAY HELP FIGHT CANCER

CONCERNED OVER SUCCESSIVE FALL IN PULSES PRODUCTION AND POTENTIAL FOR PRICE SPURTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS DECIDED TO ENCOURAGE IMPORT AND CONSUMPTION.

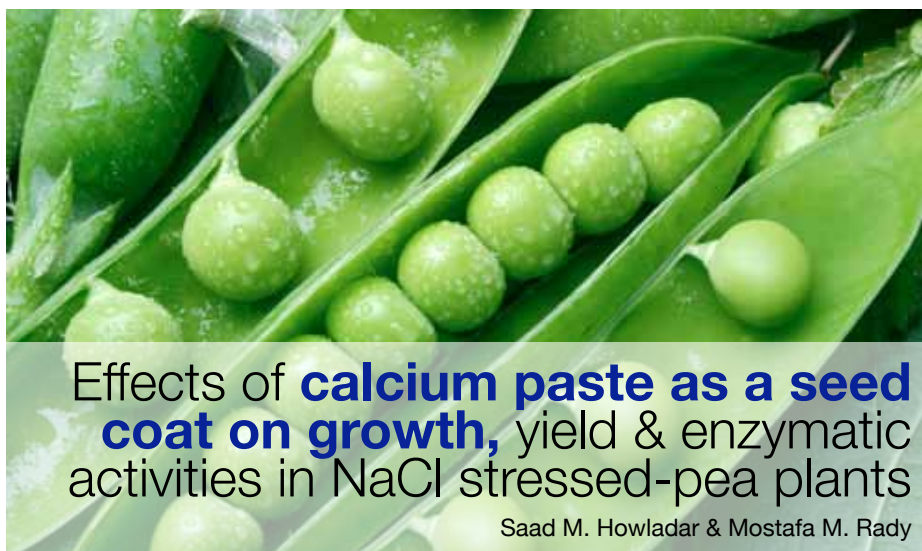
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 Honorary Chair
 (Communications & Sponsorship)

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November 2012

FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S
DESK



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present to you the fourth issue of The Pulse Pod.

Let me mention that the CICILS Executive Committee had a fruitful meeting in Paris on October 20 where we discussed a number of matters concerning the working of CICILS and the way forward. Preparations for a mega show in Singapore in April 2013 are going on. I can see a lot of buzz and excitement around the world.

An important forward-looking initiative we have embarked upon is to identify and engage several young participants in the expanding global pulses marketplace. You will find elsewhere in this issue details of what we have done and propose to do. The CICILS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP has the potential to propel our industry higher in the global agribusiness firmament.

You will read in this issue two interesting research articles as well as excerpts from latest FAO report on 'State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012'. 'Faba beans as cure for cancer' is an interesting piece demonstrating that the world is at last beginning to discover the therapeutic value of pulses. An update of Indian pulses market and forthcoming events, in addition to technical analysis of chana prices, make the latest issue of The Pulse Pod wholesome.

Let me sign off by presenting this issue for your reading pleasure.

Best wishes,

Hakan Bahceci
PRESIDENT

FABA BEANS MAY HELP FIGHT CANCER

ANTI-cancer properties have been found in faba bean extracts, along with effects that may have implications for treating hypertension and maintaining healthy weight.

A team of NSW scientists researching the health benefits of faba beans grown in Australia was "astonished" to find compounds that may be lethal to some cancers.

PhD candidate Siem Siah applied phenolic compounds from Nura and Rossa faba beans to five different cancer cell lines in laboratory experiments at the CSIRO Animal, Food and Health Division in North Ryde during a doctorate she has now completed.

The findings were published recently in the British Journal of Nutrition. "Our findings proved that faba bean extracts possess high anti-oxidant properties using both reagentbased and cellular assays, so we tried to look for the connections to anti-cancer properties," said Ms Siah.

Ms Siah conducted most of her PhD work at Charles Sturt University (CSU) Wagga Wagga, where her supervisor Dr Chris Blanchard said the team was astonished by the findings from experiments on anti-cancer and enzymeinhibiting properties.

"We were absolutely blown away by the results," Dr Blanchard said. Department of Primary Industries chemist Dr Jennifer Wood (pictured below in a faba bean crop at Tamworth) co-supervised Ms Siah's PhD and Dr Izabela Konczak at CSIRO oversaw her experiments.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation funded the research. In plants, phenolic compounds are chemicals largely responsible for colour, metabolism and defensive mechanisms. Because they play a strong protective role against insects, they are often found in seed coats and hulls.

Ms Siah grew cultures of four cancer cell lines – bladder, stomach, liver and colon cancers – in flasks, then applied the phenolic compounds to them directly and waited 24

hours to measure the proliferation of cells.

In all cases the rate of cancer cell multiplication was prohibited once the faba bean extracts were applied. For a fifth type of cancer cell, acute promyelocytic leukemia, Ms Siah applied a method called flow cytometry.

Dr Wood says the experiment yielded an insight into the mechanism that inhibited the cancer cell multiplication.

"Normal healthy cells are programmed to

human colon cells tested, a very favourable outcome."

Additional experiments on the interaction with important human enzymes showed that phenolic extracts from faba beans inhibited angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE), a common target of pharmaceutical medication for hypertension.

These compounds also inhibited the action of the digestive enzymes alphasglucosidase and lipase, which could mean slower digestion (and therefore a longer feeling of being full after a meal) and lower sugar and fat absorption by the digestive system.

Dr Blanchard says several avenues could be pursued to build on these findings and look for therapeutic human health applications, if funding becomes available.

"One is to generate large amounts of these extracts and undertake feeding trials to see if we can directly use extracts as a natural product to improve health outcomes," he said.

"Or we could drill down further and find the exact compounds involved in these activities, synthesise them and have them approved for pharmaceutical use.

"Or we could do further testing in human trials, incorporating faba beans in diets to demonstrate exactly what happens when we consume them over a long period."

Ms Siah's project also dispelled a long-held theory that more colourful beans always contain more anti-oxidants.

Rossa is a bright red bean while Nura, one of Australia's major commercial faba beans, is a light buff colour but her earlier findings showed both varieties contained equal amounts of anti-oxidants. Ms Siah is now employed as a research scientist with GrainGrowers in Sydney.

Extract From **Agriculture Today** By
Dr Chris Blanchard,
Wagga Wagga, (02) 6933 2364,
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Faba Bean phenolics induced normal cell death in the cancer cells



multiply, grow and die (cell death is called apoptosis)," Dr Wood said. "On the other hand, cancer cells evade the process of apoptosis, continue to proliferate and become tumors.

"However, this work showed faba bean phenolics induced normal cell death in the cancer cells. "Conversely, the extracts had no effect on the proliferation of normal



Economic and agricultural growth should be “nutrition-sensitive”.

(Excerpts from FAO publication: The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012)

The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012 presents new estimates of the number and proportion of undernourished people going back to 1990, defined in terms of the distribution of dietary energy supply. With almost 870 million people chronically undernourished in 2010–12, the number of hungry people in the world remains unacceptably high.

The vast majority live in developing countries, where about 850 million people, or slightly fewer than 15 percent of the population, are estimated to be undernourished.

In order for economic growth to enhance the nutrition of the neediest, the poor must participate in the growth process and its benefits: (i) Growth needs to involve and reach the poor; (ii) the poor need to use the additional income for improving the quantity and quality of their diets and for improved health services; and (iii) governments need to use additional public resources for public goods and services to benefit the poor and hungry.

Agricultural growth is particularly effective in reducing hunger and malnutrition. Most of the extreme poor

depend on agriculture and related activities for a significant part of their livelihoods. Agricultural growth involving smallholders, especially women, will be most effective in reducing extreme poverty and hunger when it increases returns to labour and generates employment for the poor.

Economic and agricultural growth should be “nutrition-sensitive”. Growth needs to result in better nutritional outcomes through enhanced opportunities for the poor to diversify their diets; improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation; improved access to health services; better consumer awareness regarding adequate nutrition and child care practices; and targeted distribution of supplements in situations of acute micronutrient deficiencies. Good nutrition, in turn, is key to sustainable economic growth.

Undernourishment around the world

About 870 million people are estimated to have been undernourished in the period 2010–12. This represents 12.5 percent of the global population, or one in eight people. The vast majority of these 852

million live in developing countries, where the prevalence of undernourishment is now estimated at 14.9 percent of the population.

Undernourishment in the world is unacceptably high. Considerable differences among regions and individual countries remain, however. A reduction in both the number and proportion of undernourished in Asia observed in recent years has continued, resulting in Asia being roughly on track for achieving its MDG hunger target. The same holds true for Latin America. Africa, by contrast, is continuing its large and rising deviation away from what is needed to meet its target; the trend for progress in reducing undernourishment is broadly mirrored by those for poverty and child mortality.

In Western Asia also, the prevalence of undernourishment has progressively increased since 1990–92 (regional aggregations follow standard UN classification).

As regions have differed in their rates of progress towards reducing hunger, the distribution of where hungry people are concentrated in the developing regions

has changed over the past 20 years. The shares of South-Eastern Asia and Eastern Asia in the developing regions’ undernourished people have seen the most marked decline between 1990–92 and 2010–12 (from 13.4 to 7.5 percent and from 26.1 to 19.2 percent, respectively), while that of Latin America also declined, from 6.5 to 5.6 percent.

Meanwhile, the shares have increased from 32.7 to 35.0 percent in Southern Asia, from 17.0 to 27.0 percent in sub-Saharan Africa and from 1.3 to 2.9 percent in Western Asia and Northern Africa.

quantify using information currently available in most countries, and certainly cannot be captured by an indicator based only on the adequacy of dietary energy. In an effort to fill this information gap, FAO has identified a preliminary set of more than 20 indicators, available for most countries and years.

Economic growth – necessary but not sufficient to accelerate reduction of hunger and malnutrition

Progress in reducing undernourishment has slowed considerably since 2007, and strong economic growth will be an essential component for successful and sustainable hunger reduction. Indeed,

benefit more directly from growth. A greater focus on integrating smallholders into markets will not only help meet future food demand, but will also open up increased opportunities for linkages with the rural non-farm economy, as smallholders are likely to use most of their additional income to purchase locally produced goods and services. In order to reduce undernourishment as rapidly as possible, growth must not only benefit the poor, but must also be “nutrition-sensitive”. Improving food security and nutrition is about more than just increasing the quantity of energy intake – it is also about improving the quality of food in terms of dietary diversity, variety, nutrient content and safety.



Undernourishment in recent years

The new estimates also suggest that the increase in hunger during 2007–10 – the period characterized by food price and economic crises – was less severe than previously estimated. More recent GDP estimates suggest that the “great recession” of 2008–09 resulted in only a mild slowdown in many developing countries, and increases in domestic staple food prices were very small in China, India and Indonesia (the three largest developing countries).

However, even when higher prices cannot be directly linked to a reduction in the total amount of calories consumed by the population, higher food prices may nevertheless have had other negative impacts, for example a deterioration in the quality of the diet and reduced access to other basic needs such as health and education. Such impacts are difficult to

regions that have grown more rapidly have generally witnessed more rapid reductions in hunger; throughout the world, people with more income have greater dietary diversity. During the past decade, per capita income growth was positive in all developing country regions, but in many countries growth did not significantly reduce hunger, suggesting that growth alone is unlikely to make a significant impact on hunger reduction.

One example of growth that often reaches the poor is agricultural growth, especially when based on increased productivity of smallholders. Agricultural growth is especially important in low-income countries, where agriculture’s contribution to reducing poverty is greatest. Agriculture is also particularly effective in reducing poverty and hunger when inequality in asset distribution is not high, because smallholders are then able to

To date, the linkage between economic growth and nutrition has been weak, with long lags before growth is translated into real changes in nutritional status.

The State of Food Insecurity in the World raises awareness about global hunger issues, discusses underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition and monitors progress towards hunger reduction targets established at the 1996 World Food Summit and the millennium Summit. The publication is targeted at a wide audience, including policy-makers, international organizations, academic institutions and the general public with an interest in linkages between food security, human and economic development.

(Excerpts from FAO publication: The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012).

Effects of calcium paste as a seed coat on growth, yield & enzymatic activities in NaCl stressed-pea plants

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Pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) is one of the most popular vegetable crops in Middle East. It is considered one of the main leguminous crops that are an important component of the agricultural sector in developing countries due to their ability to produce significant quantities of protein, carbohydrates and nutrient-rich seed. Pea is widely cultivated on newly-reclaimed soils that most of them are affected

by salinity. Salinity stress leads to a general reduction in plant growth and yield (Howladar, 2010; Rady, 2011) due to the enhanced Na⁺ and Cl⁻ uptake and the inhibited uptake of K⁺, Ca²⁺ and NO₃⁻ by plant roots. This damages plant cells through production of reactive oxygen species including superoxide, hydrogen peroxide, hydroxyl anions and singlet oxygen (Hameed et al., 2008). Nowadays, natural materials, i.e. humic acids have been applied as soil amendments to overcome the adverse effects of soil salinity, to improve the physical and chemical properties of soils, to increase their water retention and nutrient availability, and as fertilizers during plant growth period

(Rady and Osman, 2011). Calcium is considered an important factor in maintenance of membrane integrity and ion-transport regulation. Elevated Ca²⁺ concentrations in the nutrient solution mitigated the adverse effects of salinity by inhibition of Na⁺ uptake and by reduction in leakage of membranes. The Ca²⁺/Na⁺ interactions take place at the plasmalemma and Na⁺ acted by displacing Ca²⁺ from membranes, leading to increased membrane permeability and intracellular Na⁺ concentrations (Hepler, 2005). Due to considerable evidence of the adverse

effects of soil salinity on plant growth, it was hypothesized that the calcium paste used in this study as a seed protecting coat can assuage the injurious effects of 150 mM NaCl stress on pea plants. Thus, the objective of this work was to examine the effect of seed coating with calcium paste on salinity phytotoxicity resistance.



Two types of calcium paste; CW and CWH were used in this experiment. CW consisted of calcium sulphate + wheat bran (a by-product of wheat grain grinding) at a ratio of 1:5 (w/w), respectively, and CWH consisted of calcium sulphate + wheat bran + humic acid at a ratio of 2:10:1 (w/w/w), respectively. To obtain the calcium paste, the components were mixed and kneaded together using Arabic Gum solution (5%) as a sticking agent. The healthy pea seeds were well coated with calcium paste by manual stirring. Each 1 kg seed needed 500 g of CW

or CWH for well coating and to be available to seeds and roots in a longer time during vegetative growth stage. CW- or CWH-coated seeds were then spread on a plastic sheet and allowed to dry overnight under room temperature. Treated seeds were sown in plastic pots (40 cm in diameter, 50 cm in deep) filled with acid then deionized water washed sand. Plants were irrigated with 1/2-strength Hoagland solutions every three days throughout the duration of the experiment. The 150 mM NaCl was used, once every six days until the 40th day in which the CW or CWH completely disappeared from rhizosphere, along with the nutrient solution.

In the time in which NaCl reduced the growth and yield of pea plants, supplementation of NaCl salinized-medium with calcium paste (CW or CWH) considerably removed the inhibitory effect of salinity. CWH was found to be more effective and significantly improved the growth and yield of pea plants. The ability of pea plants to tolerate toxic levels of NaCl was

enhanced Ca/Na ratio and the reduced Na content. The assay of carbonic anhydrase (CA) and nitrate reductase (NR) revealed a reduction in the activity of these enzymes in NaCl-treated plants. The activity of these enzymes was not only restored by CWH in NaCl-treated plants, but also increased significantly for healthy growth of plants under salinity stress.

This study indicated that, the application of calcium paste, particularly CWH [CaSO₄ + wheat bran + humic acid at a ratio of 2:10:1 (w/w/w), respectively] seemed to be useful to overcome the inhibition caused by NaCl stress. Seed pretreatment with CWH resulted in the improvement of growth, yield, water and nutrient status and the activities of CA and NR in pea plants grown under NaCl stress. These results suggest that CWH application regulates the response of plants to the NaCl stress and could be used as a growth regulator during vegetative growth period to improve plant growth under salinity stress conditions.



Seed pretreatment with CWH resulted in the improvement of growth, yield, water and nutrient status and the activities of CA and NR in pea plants grown under NaCl stress.

found to increase due to the seed application with CWH. The positive results of pea growth and yield obtained with CWH attributed to its components; Ca²⁺ as an antagonist for excluding Na⁺ from rhizosphere, humic acid as a soil amendment to improve the soil characteristics which was defected due to salinity. Humic substances include auxins, or function as auxins, and thus positively affect plant metabolism (Rady and Osman, 2011). In addition, wheat bran acted as a water holding material in the rhizosphere to cope with drought, resulting in soil salinity. This may explain the positive influence of CWH on photosynthetic pigments, ascorbic acid and free proline contents that positively reflected in the growth and yield of pea plants. The restoration of antioxidant level in the form of ascorbic acid in leaves of pea plants challenged with NaCl stress. Ascorbic acid is known to operate as an antioxidant either in direct chemical interaction with free oxyradicals or during the reaction catalyzed by ascorbate peroxidase (Nakano and Asada, 1981). Plants exposed to NaCl had increased Na content and reduced Ca content and Ca/Na ratio. Plants treated with CWH exhibited a highly significant decrease in Na content, and showed a significant increase in Ca content and Ca/Na ratio. These results may be explained on the basis of CWH components among them calcium ions, act as antagonizers, which displace Na ions. However, the seed pretreatment with CWH resulted not only in the reduced inhibitory effects of NaCl, but also the further

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AN APPEAL from your chair...!

Dear Friends
I am delighted to acknowledge the generosity and support of our sponsors. Without question or condition they have contributed more than US\$ 2.5 Million in past 5 years in sponsorships to CICILS which allows our multilateral non profit confederation to strengthen and establish its place as the only global forum of the pulses industry and support the cause of PULSES PACT (Production, Awareness, Consumption and free Trade of Pulses).

Pulses are green and versatile agricultural produce. Not only they are environment friendly but also help reduce the world hunger by increasing the supply of economical & nutritious vegetable protein. Sponsoring & partnering with CICILS-IPTIC is an ethical, environment friendly, socially responsible and focused initiative of showcasing your products and services to over 1000 agri business decision makers. Sponsorship at the CICILS annual convention is an excellent and innovative way to achieve higher visibility for your organization's business and reach influential decision makers.

Ever increasing record participation by sponsors in CICILS conventions is a clear indication that pulses awareness & trade and benefits to the trade are increasing significantly each year. It is not difficult to perceive therefore, why CICILS continues to be a recipient of the generous sponsorships. CICILS 2013 sponsorship & partnership opportunities for Singapore convention are open now and we seek your support.

Promote Pulses - Save The Environment - Help Fight Hunger

Sudhakar Tomar
Honorary Chair (Communications & Sponsorship)

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Silver- Delegate Bags + cost of bags	\$5,000	Blue Ribbon, Australia
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**“Eat more pulses,
help fight hunger,
save the world”**



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“CICILS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS participate at the brainstorming session 20TH OCTOBER”

“CICILS YOUTH INITIATIVE”

Following our announcement at the April convention in Dubai, invitations were forwarded to all members inviting them to nominate young employees or members of their families involved in the pulses business to attend a “think tank” following the regular CICILS IPTIC Executive meeting in Paris on 20th October (coinciding with the biannual SIAL food fair).

23 young people from 15 countries world-wide were nominated, although unfortunately 5 were eventually unable to attend for various unavoidable reasons.

The final group of 18 was warmly welcomed by CICILS President, Hakan Bahceci who introduced them to CICILS Executive Board members before they moved into a brainstorming session designed to assist them prioritise activities required to formally organise an active and vital working group of young people within CICILS. The group decided that they will act as

a preliminary “steering committee” with a view to extending membership to all young CICILS people who are interested in getting involved.

They have also tentatively agreed that the cut off age for the group should be 35 (but with the proviso that they can invite older people as special advisers from time to time!!). Four issues were identified as being important initial steps in forming what has tentatively been designated...

“The CICILS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP”

By the conclusion of the session four sub groups had been formed that will develop draft proposals for:

Structure, mission and vision

Group Leader: Charles Wachsmuth
Members: Kyle Hinrichs, Iman Reda, Kivanc Baskaya, Atheeqe Ansari

Funding opportunities

Group Leader: Mattia Pedon
Members: Pedro Alvarez, Karan Gupta, Veysel Memis, Iason Georgeoglou

Communication strategy

Group Leader: Elyce Simpson Fraser
Members: Jono Semmler, Kivanc Baskaya, Rita Alejandra Villafane, Tuba Memis

Member and potential member data base/skills & experience matrix

Group leader: Felicia Soumah
Members: Florent Cattaneo, Tala Mobayen

These draft proposals will be circulated for general consideration by the steering group, (including to those who nominated but were unable to attend) by target date of 15th November 2012. The final draft will then be put to the CICILS Board for agreement, with a target date for final sign off by end November. The next step will be to develop projects that the CICILS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP can undertake on their own initiative between now and the Singapore Convention in April next year at which they will be given a place in the program

to report on their accomplishments to the rest of their global industry.

Some excellent suggestions for these potential projects were put forward at the brainstorming session, including what could really be a significant contribution to the success of our hopefully forthcoming 2016 International Year of Pulses. This suggestion involves investigating the use of social media and the development of an international competition for the best pulse recipes in the world... With the winner to be announced on a very special “CICILS day of pulse cooking” to be designated on the same day in all countries world-wide, towards the culmination of the international year.

The enthusiasm, dynamism and strength of focus of these CICILS Young Professionals is impressive, as is their desire to contribute to the common good of their chosen industries.

They are to be heartedly congratulated on commencing what promises to bring a new phase in the growth of our organisation and become a fundamental plank in the development of proper succession planning for its future. For more information or to enquire about joining the CICILS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS email: g.alayunt@cicilsiptic.org

NCDEX CHANA DAILY CHART

(Price: Indian Rupees per 100 kilograms)

Prices have taken resistance near previous high levels and there is possible double top formation supported by a negative divergence. **As long as 5000/4800 level is intact on the upside we may see a correction in short term and prices can test the uptrend line near 4500/4400 levels.**

In medium term prices are moving in higher high higher low formation and the uptrend remains intact. The larger trend continues on a positive side any dips near 4500 would give a buying opportunity.

A fall below the uptrend line near 4400 may hint towards a reversal and the larger uptrend and we may see a significant decline. Otherwise in the short term we suspect a test of 4500 levels but we see limited downside from there on.

(The author Mr. T. Gnanasekar, Director, CommTrendz Research in Mumbai, India, is a well-known technical analyst. This analysis is based on historical price movements. There is risk of loss in trading. The author can be contacted at: Gnanasekar_thiagarajan@yahoo.com)



CONCERNED OVER SUCCESSIVE FALL IN PULSES PRODUCTION AND POTENTIAL FOR PRICE SPURTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS DECIDED TO ENCOURAGE IMPORT AND CONSUMPTION.

Indian market update: G. Chandrashekhar

After a 4-month run characterised by aberrant movement initially, the southwest monsoon officially withdrew by the end of September. For India's agriculture output overall, the worst fears have been belied as precipitation picked up in the last 4-6 weeks before withdrawal and a major disaster was averted.

Yet, pulses crops have been hit. After the

decided to extend a subsidy of Rs 20 per kilogram or Rs 20,000 per ton (about US\$ 380 a ton) to State agencies that import pulses. These agencies are expected to pass on the subsidy benefit to various State governments that decide to distribute imported pulses under the Public Distribution System (PDS) at affordable prices. Even four weeks after the Cabinet decision to subsidise imports, the scheme of import

240 million. Early this year, a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India castigated the government for the shoddy manner in which import and distribution activities were undertaken by the public sector companies during 2008-2010.

The subsidy amount has now been doubled to Rs 20,000 a ton.

Will the subsidy pave way for larger imports? Not many are sanguine that Indian State agencies will enter the market with large orders.

There will surely be a modest increase in India's overall import of pulses during crop year 2012-13 (October to September); but not a dramatic increase, on current reckoning.

The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a crash program to maximise Rabi season (spring harvest) output of major crops including pulses. Rabi pulses account for about two-third of annual production.

The production target for Rabi season (to be harvested around March 2013) is 11 million tons. Desi chickpea or chana is the dominant pulse crop in the Rabi season.

In the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign, the government has come up with additional measures to expand acreage by two million hectares including higher support price, planting short duration varieties, IPM, INM, inter-cropping and procurement.

and distribution is still under formulation. It is unclear how soon the decision will actually become operational. State governments that are keen to supply pulses through PDS have to approach the designated State trading agencies such as STC, MMTTC, PEC, NAFED and so on for arranging imports.

A similar scheme was in operation till June 2012 and that time, the amount of subsidy was Rs 10/kg or Rs 10,000/t. The public sector companies incurred a huge loss on pulses imports estimated at about US\$

record harvest of 7.12 million tons in 2010, for two successive years, pulses production in the kharif season (September or autumn harvest) has declined. In 2011, production was 6.16 million tons and this year it is estimated even lower at 5.26 million tons (versus target of 7.0 million tons).

Concerned over successive fall in pulses production and potential for price spurts, the Government of India has decided to encourage import and consumption.

Early in October, the Indian Cabinet



News & Views

EPOSPEA announces 2nd International Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

EPOSPEA (Ethiopian Pulses, Oilseeds and Spices Processors Exporters Association) just announced its 2nd International Conference which will be held this coming November 28-29, 2012, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This forthcoming annual International Conference on agri commodity traders and part-takers plans to explore the challenges and the opportunities in marketing the products of the sector over across the world.

We encourage all our members to attend this conference on Pulses, Oilseeds, and Spices. Please feel free to visit: www.epospeaeth.org for further details.

India hikes minimum support price (MSP) for pulses in the Rabi season

The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has announced a hike in minimum support price (MSP) for pulses in the Rabi season (planted in late-autumn / early winter and harvested in spring (March/April 2013).

MSP for chana or gram, the principal Rabi season pulses crop, is now Rs 3,000 a quintal (100 kilogram) (Rs 30,000 a ton), up Rs 200 from last season's Rs 2,800 per quintal.

For the upcoming season, the production target for chana or gram is 8.0 million tons. In 2011-12 season (summer 2012), the output was 7.6 million tons.

For masur (lentil), the MSP has been revised up to Rs 2,900/t from last season's Rs 2,800/t.

There is belief that the hike in MSP would encourage growers to expand acreage and improve input management.

"New members: Welcome to CICILS!"

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Check our CICILS 2013 World Pulses Convention Sponsorship opportunities April 15 to April 18, 2013 at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.

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Readers are welcome to send their views, comments and suggestions.



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