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PRODUCER: Andy Denwood

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ACTUALITY AT CHILLI MARKET

CUFFE: It's nearing the end of the chilli harvest in Andhra Pradesh, and farmers are bringing cartloads of produce to market. The temperature is over 45 degrees and they're keeping to the shade while the sacks of red chillies are weighed and priced.

Earlier this year the presence of Sudan colouring in some consignments of chilli powder led to a full-scale alert in Britain, with tons of ready-made food removed at midnight from supermarket shelves. But while consumers worry about the potential risk to their health, India's poorest agricultural workers struggle to survive. File on 4 reports now on the hidden victims of the spice trade.

SIGNATURE TUNE

ACTUALITY WITH SACKS

CUFFE: Guntur is a town that revolves around the spice trade – it's the chilli capitol of Andhra Pradesh. Five storeys of this building are packed with produce waiting to be sold to markets across the world. K Sreedhar is the manager of Cochin Spices and his chillies are destined for Britain.

ACTUALITY IN GUNTUR COLD STORE

CUFFE: How many cold stores are there like this in Guntur?

SREEDHAR: There are nearly 65 cold stores there in Guntur.

CUFFE: This is a wonderful sight, all these chillies spread out across the floor.

SREEDHAR: Yes, these are ready for packing actually. They are going to pack this material. These are the last year crop. They are removing this stem. This will improve the quality.

ACTUALITY OF WOMEN WORKING

CUFFE: Round the corner from the cold store, about fifty women are sitting cross-legged on the ground, with piles of chillies, dried chillies in front of them, and they are separating the stalks from the chilli itself and putting the chillies in a bag.

How long have you been working today?

GIRL: Five hours, five or six hours.

CUFFE: Five or six hours? How much will you earn today?

GIRL: Forty or fifty rupees.

CUFFE: Forty or fifty rupees?

Shanti is young so she can work quickly, earning the princely sum of 60 pence a day. But Rajmila is picking off the stalks slowly with arthritic fingers.

I have been told that you are the oldest of the workers here. How old are you?

RAJMILA (VIA INTERPRETER): Eighty years.

CUFFE: Eighty years?

RAJMILA (VIA INTERPRETER): Yes, eighty. She lost her son and nobody is there to feed her, that's why she is working.

CUFFE: How many hours a day do you work?

RAJMILA (VIA INTERPRETER): Eight hours, five day week.

CUFFE: Five days a week. How much do you earn for a day?

RAJMILA (VIA INTERPRETER): She gets thirty rupees a day.

CUFFE: She's putting up three fingers, thirty rupees a day. So that is about forty pence a day. And yet in England [sneezes], excuse me, in England, for a small pot of chillies, we may pay three times that amount.

RAJMILA (VIA INTERPRETER): She is saying very surprising and she is having difficulty because she is so old, but still she has to earn what she can make thirty rupees a day.

CUFFE: And what is the effect on your health? Because I notice that a lot of you are coughing, and in fact it makes me cough just sitting here.

RAJMILA (VIA INTERPRETER): She is saying who will feed her, because she has to go on though she is coughing and not in very good health, but still she has to continue to make her earnings. It is part of her life, this is.

CUFFE: Rajmila and the other women work without any masks or gloves. Even Mr Sreedhar, who'll pay for today's work, admits the conditions are far from ideal.

Are they coughing because of the chillies?

SREEDHAR: Yes, they are highly pungent, so the burning sensation will be there and dust will be there, so they will get this coughing, sneezing, all these things.

CUFFE: Does that have any long term effects on their health, do you think?

SREEDHAR: Yes, yes, actually they will get pains also and they will get lungs problems after some time.

CUFFE: Once the chillies are prepared they'll be sent to a processing plant, where they'll be ground or flaked and shipped to Europe. The spice trade is a complex chain of middle-men – commissioning agents and dealers, exporters and importers - and each of them claims it's someone else who's making the money.

SREEDAR: To sustain business, we are also forced to reduce the prices and making our margins very less. Unless our buyer gives a good rate, we can't increase these prices.

CUFFE: So is it the buyer that holds the price down? Surely you could pay these women a little more and still keep your profit margins?

SREEDAR: Not really we can't, I think.

CUFFE: Do the buyers ever ask you about the conditions of the workforce and wages?

SREEDAR: No, no, they aren't the least bothered about all these things. They want quality produce at a competitive rate, that's all. And if we are not ready to give them a competitive rate for a quality product, they will buy from anywhere in the world and they will do their business.

CUFFE: India is the world's largest producer of spices, and the economy of Andhra Pradesh is closely bound up with the fortunes of the chilli trade. But the women at the cold store in Guntur are at the bottom of the rung, earning half the wage of a field worker.

ACTUALITY OF PLOUGHING

CUFFE: Years of drought have made mainstay crops like cotton and rice more difficult to grow, so many farmers have turned to spices, which don't rely so much on water. But a bumper crop and increased competition means prices are down. Muppu Swamy is ploughing with the help of his wife, Vijaya, and ten year old son, ready to re-plant.

SWAMY (VIA INTERPRETER): We have got very good produce this year, but there is no price.

CUFFE: Why is that?

SWAMY (VIA INTERPRETER): There is no price in the market.

CUFFE: What is the effect on you and your family of the low prices this year?

VIJAYA (VIA INTERPRETER): There are no good prices at the market. We are undergoing very difficult conditions. Even I am not sending my child to the school, as I cannot afford to hire other people for the agricultural labour work, so I am keeping my child in the farmyard.

CUFFE: India is currently enjoying an economic boom, and the people who once owned this land have abandoned the countryside for cities like Hyderabad. Ramatty Murali, who runs an organisation supporting poor farmers, says those who are left behind are barely literate and ill-equipped to deal with the vagaries of the global market.

MURALI: 80% of the agriculturists are basically small and marginal farmers, which means their landholdings are less than two hectares, and the majority of them are first generation farmers also. They were previously agricultural labour, they purchased this land sold by the landlords, and in a way they are first generation farmers. Thus their ability to absorb any risk in the agricultural sector is also very low. The moment the farmer goes for a cash crop like chilli, they spend a lot of money on pesticides, fertilisers. It's like gambling. The banks are still not giving any credit to the farmers and farmers groups. Even now, the small and marginal farmers doing agriculture in one hectare, two hectares, are basically going to the private moneylenders, and in that process they are getting exploited.

ACTUALITY IN MARKET

CUFFE: It's early in the morning and farmers are bringing the last of the chilli crop to market in Warangal. They've tied their bullocks to the neem trees that line this square and now they're waiting to see how much the produce will fetch.

ACTUALITY WITH SCALES

CUFFE: The farmer who is having his chillies weighed and priced is Rajanar Sinar and he's sitting on a pile of sacks of chillies, and he has been getting a price of about 800 rupees a sack – that's 41 kilos in a sack – and that amounts to about £10. What do you think about that price of 800 rupees a sack? Is it a good price?

SINAR (VIA INTERPRETER): It is not entirely good price. Last year we got rupees 3100, but this year it is only 800 rupees. It is very very low price. For agriculture investment I took huge loans. Most of my expenditure goes on pesticides. If I don't use pesticides, I won't get good crop, so I need to spend money and I need to take borrowings from others.

CUFFE: So what will happen at the end of this season? In what kind of financial position will you be in?

SINAR (VIA INTERPRETER): There is no alternative for me than to commit suicide by consuming pesticide.

CUFFE: The threat to kill himself by consuming pesticide isn't an empty one. The number of suicides in Andhra Pradesh is of epidemic proportions. It started with cotton farmers, but now it's spread to those who rely on chilli and other spices. Last year, 2,115 farmers committed suicide – most of them by swallowing pesticides - and farmers' representatives believe that, if you take family members into account, the real figure may be even higher.

ACTUALITY OF POISONED WOMAN GROANING

CUFFE: This is the acute medical ward at the Mahatma Gandhi hospital in Warangal, and a middle-aged woman is lying on a bed –distressed and in pain. Her name is Manda Sammaka, and she grows chilli, cotton and rice on her small farm, but her daughter Sarojana says she's had major financial worries. She was found unconscious beside a half empty tin of pesticide.

SAROJANA (VIA INTERPRETER): She is feeling pain all over her body.

CUFFE: Do you know how much pesticide she took?

SAROJANA (VIA INTERPRETER): Half of the tin she emptied. It's something less than a litre bottle. She was very depressed before. She is always worried about her debts and her agriculture and her family.

CUFFE: Doctors say Manda will pull through, but her debts will be waiting for her when she returns home.

ACTUALITY IN VILLAGE

CUFFE: In the evening, when farmers are in from their fields, the debt collectors come knocking. In this remote village in the middle of the Deccan plain, three men have committed suicide.

VIJENDRA (VIA INTERPRETER): At his death he was 24 year old. He was a very good person. I still remember him.

CUFFE: Vijendra's husband, Chinnai Chinnana, is the last man to die in the village.

VIJENDRA (VIA INTERPRETER): That day he was at home and he asked us to go to the fields. And around 11 o'clock we went to the fields, and he took the poison and he committed suicide. I returned to my homeland for my husband's dead body. I never thought this would happen.

CUFFE: What was he so worried about?

VIJENDRA (VIA INTERPRETER): It was the pestering of the moneylenders that forced him mainly. They used to come regularly and they used to argue with him, they used to harass him, and this led to his mental agony, and this is just due to the expense of buying pesticides that led to the major losses.

CUFFE: And who were they, these people? Were they private moneylenders?

VIJENDRA (VIA INTERPRETER): Those who gave us the pesticides, they were pestering for money, and some were the village moneylenders.

CUFFE: Your little boy here, who is six years old, how has he been affected by his father's death?

VIJENDRA (VIA INTERPRETER): It took him more than two months to realise about his father's death. Every day he was asking for his father. Every alternate day I could feed him, but I not giving him sufficient food. This hurts me very much.

CUFFE: Vijendra's neighbour, Rajeshwari, has four children to feed.

RAJESHWARI (VIA INTERPRETER): This year I started my own agricultural farming, but this year too I have incurred losses. This is my fate.

CUFFE: What happened to your husband's debts once he was dead? Who pays the debts?

RAJESHWARI (VIA INTERPRETER): Still there, pestering me, but I am not able to pay them.

CUFFE: So you are left with the same debts that were troubling him?

RAJESHWARI (VIA INTERPRETER): When I am not able to feed my children properly, I remember him that he has given me this kind of fate.

CUFFE: A year ago a new Indian Government came to power, after promising to tackle the agricultural crisis. In Andhra Pradesh, a chief minister, who'd embraced western ideas of liberalisation and courted IT companies like Microsoft, was replaced by Rajasekhara Reddy, self-titled farmers' champion. Mr Reddy set up a Commission on Farmers' Welfare, which concluded that agriculture was in "an advanced stage of crisis" – the result of a steep rise in the cost of inputs, volatility and often a fall in the price of produce, lack of proper agricultural advice and lack of access to formal lines of credit. He says he's taken measures to address these problems.

REDDY: Ultimately, farmers should not be exploited by the moneylenders. We are seeing to it that farmers are being given agriculture loans for the first time. The interest on the debts have been substantially reduced.

CUFFE: That's on government loans, isn't it? And unfortunately, most of these farmers don't go to the government for loans. They need to use private moneylenders, because the government banks will not give them money.

REDDY: Even all the private moneylenders also, we are declaring a moratorium for six months on the private moneylenders till the crops came in, and now we are introducing a bill to the effect that private moneylenders also do not charge more than 12% interest.

CUFFE: But with respect, Chief Minister, none of the moneylenders seems to be obeying this moratorium or reducing the interest in any way, because we spoke to widows and farmers, who say that they are constantly being pestered by private moneylenders for the repayment.

REDDY: Unless someone gives a complaint, it is not very easy for the government to effectively implement any law. Unfortunately many of them don't complain, that's the whole problem.

CUFFE: Critics suspect that the government is already running out of cash and question its ability to tackle the farming crisis. But however bad its problems at home, India is determined to present a bright face to the world. The Spices Board was rocked by the scandal of Sudan 1, the carcinogenic dye found in some consignments of chilli powder exported to Britain. And now it's gone into overdrive to ensure nothing like that can ever happen again. In Guntur, which has been declared an agri-export zone for chillies, the board has a new marketing director.

ACTUALITY IN WAREHOUSE

SELVARAJAN: This is chilli drawn from where stuffing is taking place.

CUFFE: D Selvarajan visits every warehouse where chillies are being packed, or stuffed, for export. He then sends a sample to the Spices Board laboratory in Cochin.

SELVARAJAN: After stuffing the container, we will be taking the samples for checking for Sudan and the pesticide. And after taking our chilli samples, it will be received by the Customs authorities.

CUFFE: So you have in each pack here, each sample, how many chillis?

SELVARAJAN: ... they are taking four samples of chillis.

CUFFE: From each consignment?

SELVARAJAN: From each consignment.

CUFFE: How many consignments have you stopped being exported because they were contaminated?

SELVARAJAN: Out of twenty containers in Andhra Pradesh, I have stopped only two containers, and others are now cleared for export.

CUFFE: Are you confident that all consignments of chilli and spices that reach the European market are free of contamination?

SELVARAJAN: 100%, 100%, the Spices Board has done a wonderful job to stop.

CUFFE: The Spices Board blames two rogue traders in Mumbai for adulterating spices and has now withdrawn their licence. Tackling the problem of pesticide residues may prove more difficult. Several consignments of chilli and curry powder have been rejected by European countries, including Britain, because they contain high residues of the pesticide Ethion, one of the family of organophosphates which is suspected of causing damage to the nervous system.

ACTUALITY ON STATION ROAD

Ethion is just one of a plethora of agro-chemicals on sale here in Station Road, Warangal's pesticide alley. There are a hundred shops with rival salesmen selling every conceivable cure for pests and fungus. Some of the pesticides are considered too dangerous for sale in other parts of the world, but that doesn't seem to deter the farmers. They're handing over wads of cash – most of it probably on loan – and others are buying on tick.

CUFFE cont: Ramgoven Jayna is an agricultural consultant who worries about the excessive use of pesticides, and he's particularly concerned about Ethion. He says that although the state has tried to control its use, it's been totally ineffective. To prove the point, he reads a note attached to the official licence permitting him to sell chemicals.

JAYNA: Ethion, 50% emulsifiable concentrate and phosphomidon are banned.

CUFFE: Right, so that's Ethion, which is a very commonly used pesticide here, and it's banned, and then it goes on to say this.

JAYNA: Yes, it is banned. Except serial number two, in respect of Ethion 50% EC only.

CUFFE: And what does that mean?

JAYNA: I don't know what exactly does it mean.

CUFFE: I mean, you're an expert, aren't you? You're one of the people who are most qualified in this town, perhaps in this state.

JAYNA: Even the experts are confused in India. My colleague dealers don't have interest in knowing what exactly this note means.

CUFFE: We've now come back to Station Road to find out how easy it is to buy Ethion. In the first shop, the salesman said he didn't sell it. Now we're going to visit his next door neighbour, and Jayna has advised us that if we want to get a truthful reply, we should approach the subject obliquely by asking about his sales figures for each pesticide.

ACTUALITY IN PESTICIDE SHOP

CUFFE: Monocrotophos, how much do you sell of that in a year?

SHOPKEEPER: Five thousand litres in my counter.

CUFFE: Endosulfan?

SHOPKEEPER: Around two thousand litres?

CUFFE: Ethion?

SHOPKEEPER: Ethion, around fifteen hundred litres.

CUFFE: I'm sure you aware some of these are banned in other countries, and Ethion is banned here in Andhra Pradesh. Why are you selling it?

SHOPKEEPER: Government are giving us permission two years back.

CUFFE: Have you got a licence which shows that you are permitted to sell it?

SHOPKEEPER: Yes I have a licence to sell Ethion. I will show.

CUFFE: The request seems to have put him in a bit of a flurry. He's now sent someone in to the dark recesses of his storeroom to find the relevant bit of paper. Ah, they're now bringing out the right certificate, the one we're familiar with. And it says 'Note Ethion 50% EC, etc etc banned'. What do you make of that then?

SHOPKEEPER: In the principle certificate it is permission, so we are selling. There is some communication gap.

CUFFE: To bridge the communication gap, we decided to visit the Joint Director of Agriculture, Laxman Rao.

I wonder if you could clarify something for us. We have got here a licence which was issued in April 2005, so in April this year, and it's signed by you, the Joint Director of Agriculture. It's to a particular company and it licences them to sell certain chemicals. Could you explain this note about Ethion at the bottom?

RAO: We're seeing that Ethion is banned, Ethion is banned, it seems.

CUFFE: You say 'it seems', but shouldn't you know, because you've signed this piece of paper, you're the Joint Director of Agriculture for Warangal district.

RAO: Exactly, madam.

CUFFE: The message can't be getting across, because in one shop we were told Ethion is banned. In the next shop we were told Ethion can be used, though it shouldn't be used for chillis. There is no clarity here.

RAO: But there should not be, because once it is banned, it is for all the shops. I need some clarification on this product.

CUFFE: At this point the Deputy Director of Agriculture appeared in a white coat. He told us that Ethion was banned a couple of years ago, but now some dealers are licensed to sell it. Which left us not much the wiser. Another controversial pesticide that's commonly used by chilli farmers is Endosulfan, which has been implicated in the deaths of agricultural workers in Kerala and West Africa. It's an organochlorine, which can do neurological damage, and in February this year the European Union decided to put severe restrictions on its use with a view to an all-out ban by June 2007. Then there's the pesticide that many farmers choose when they intend to kill themselves - Monocrotophos, which was banned by the EU two years ago. Kavitha Kurugani of the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture wishes there were the same controls in India.

KURUGANI: India's most commonly used pesticides have been banned elsewhere. Organophosphorous pesticides, class 1a and 1b pesticides, for instance, are even recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organisation as not fit for use in developing countries. There is something called the FAO Code of Conduct, when it comes to pesticides. It's an international voluntary agreement to which India is a signatory, to which many multinational pesticide companies are signatories to, but these get used as well as produced in India to be exported to other neighbouring countries also.

CUFFE: So why is this happening?

KURUGANI: Well, for one thing, the government looks at this as an industry, an industry that actually provides foreign exchange, an industry that actually provides foreign exchange, an industry that is supposed to be propping up Indian agriculture. There are all these arguments that are heard about – if you don't have pesticides, what about food, won't there be food shortages for the growing populations in this country? So this is really a myth that says that India's food production needs these kinds of pesticides to be used.

CUFFE: Environmentalists accuse the multi-national pesticide industry of double standards – selling chemicals to India that are illegal in Europe. But any call for a worldwide ban on the most hazardous organophosphates and organochlorines is strongly resisted by the industry itself. Keith Jones is in charge of marketing for CropLife International, the body which represents leading pesticide companies in Brussels.

JONES: Any pesticide has to be registered in a country, so it's the government that decides whether they require to have available products – not the industry, it's the government.

CUFFE: Wouldn't it be far simpler to just say, if any pesticide is unacceptable in Europe and has therefore been banned or restricted, the same should apply in a country like India?

JONES: I'm sorry. I believe that India, as a government, should decide what it as a government, representing its people, think its people – the farmers – need. And we should respect that and then support training of farmers to ensure that that product is used appropriately and effectively.

CUFFE: Does it concern you then, that in Andhra Pradesh we found there was a complete confusion about the regulations, about whether or not a particular pesticide was banned?

JONES: Of course that concerns us, and that's why we want to work with government and do work with government, with NGOs to give a consistent and an accurate message to farmers.

CUFFE: Your own code of conduct says that, where local regulation is not adequate, you will ensure that your products are not sold or distributed unless they can be used safely in accordance with local conditions.

JONES: They are being used responsibly and safely and we have to look at reality. And, as an organisation, we are going out there and putting the message across that we have to use these products responsibly and effectively.

CUFFE: But the evidence from Andhra Pradesh is that pesticides are often used indiscriminately and without the right safety measures. One farmer we met said he sprayed his chilli crop up to twenty times when the recommended number is four or five. And a survey conducted in Guntur and Warangal - which are described as pesticide hotspots - shows that many of them mix a cocktail of pesticides and the majority don't follow any of the recommended precautions. Ramatty Murali believes any public messages about safety are drowned out by commercial advertising.

MURALI: Farmers who are experiencing crisis are desperately looking for new solutions. In this kind of situation, the pesticide companies are releasing very forceful advertisements. They have all the money to make use of the media, and the farmers who are in crisis, who are looking for alternatives, get lured by these advertisements and they go for those pesticides. Unfortunately there is no counter education process, and that's how they're getting deeper and deeper into this kind of hole, trap. Government obviously cannot compete with these multinational companies in terms of investment for releasing the advertisements and things like that. If you look at the demand that is there in terms of disseminating information to the farmers, educating the farmers and compare it to what the government is able to do. The government effort is very little.

CUFFE: The job of spraying pesticides is often left to contracted labourers, Dalits, who are at the bottom of the social pecking order. We met a group of about fifteen men in a village on the edge of Warangal, who described their working conditions and said the farmers who employed them gave little or no information about hazardous pesticides.

ACTUALITY WITH LABOURERS

MAN (VIA INTERPRETER): They won't tell us anything about the precautions to be taken and the severity and the poisoning of the pesticides. They just go about spraying.

CUFFE: Do they give you any protective clothing?

MAN (VIA INTERPRETER): No protective clothing and no headgear and no protective eyeglasses. We are as we go and we spray and we come back as just like that only.

CUFFE: Have any of you ever been sick because of the pesticides? Have any of you felt unwell after spraying?

MAN (VIA INTERPRETER): Some people do feel sick, but as we are bonded labour to the farmers, we have to go about our task, we cannot do anything about it. Whatever he asks us, we have to do it. Everybody feels itching all over their body and everybody feels giddiness and everybody feels headache, and they go to the local hospital and get some instant relievers for the pain and they'll take a rest and go about their job next day.

ACTUALITY IN SURAIHAH'S HOME

CUFFE: The only ornament in Suraiyah's home is a coloured photograph of her late husband, draped with a garland of fresh flowers. Shampati was forty when he went out spraying for the last time.

SURAIHAH (VIA INTERPRETER): It was a far-off place, I could not know anything of what happened there, but I was told that he sprayed for some time and felt sick and later

NEHRU: People who are spraying, they may be inhaling, and at the same time, many will have a helper, the person who is helping him, fills their apparatus with spray. At that time this poisonous material spills over the body and the clothes, they get soaked, and the poison slowly absorbs into the skin.

CUFFE: What kind of damage is caused by exposure to these pesticides?

NEHRU: It depends upon the amount of poison which enters the body. The patient may develop any type of effects like excessive salivations and is really the patient may succumb because of the excess amount of fluid collection in the lungs.

CUFFE: So they're almost drowning in their own saliva?

NEHRU: Yes.

CUFFE: Up to now, the number of workers who are poisoned has been a hidden problem, because hospitals haven't collected the figures. This changed when a pharmacologist at the main university in Warangal, Professor Devarakonda Krishna, wrote a report on poisoning for the World Health Organisation. The results were so startling that he now believes there should be a change in the law on pesticides.

KRISHNA: This happens to be one of the worst killers of this particular area. In this part of Andhra Pradesh, we see about 15% of 20% of the medical admissions are poison cases. So on an average of the medical admissions in this district hospital, it's about 78,000, of which about 1,300 to 1,500 of them would be poison cases. And we are trying to bring these facts to the local governments, and they too are sympathetic, but it's rather difficult unless we make certain changes in our legislation, particularly with regard to the supply of these agents.

CUFFE: So what changes would you like to see in legislation?

KRISHNA: The first thing I would suggest is that it's better to identify the pesticides which are not so dangerous to the human beings or the animals.

CUFFE: Which ones? I mean, we've been looking Endosulfan, which is an organophosphate, it's extremely dangerous. We've been looking at Ethion, and we've been looking at Monocrotophos, that is also extremely hazardous.

REDDY: I'm not sure about all the names, but some of them have been banned, and we are in the process of eliminating some others also very soon.

CUFFE: In fact, in Andhra Pradesh, we found that there was a restriction of Ethion which nobody could understand, and yet still there were traders who were licensed to sell. That seems to be a nonsensical position.

REDDY: I am sure that any banned pesticide, if it's being sold in the market, it's contravening the law. If that sort of a thing is about that particular pesticide about which you told, we'll definitely look into this.

CUFFE: India's spice trade is under threat from competitors like Pakistan and China. If it's to maintain its position in the global market, it needs to tackle the many problems facing the poorest agricultural workers. While there are questions about the government's ability to support them, Ramatty Murali thinks consumers in countries like Britain should play their part.

MURALI: Consumers in developed world has realised this. Big trading companies should understand the kind of crisis, trauma the producers are going through. Okay, you are getting a very good quality produce at a very low price. Things are fine on your end. But what's happening to the producers? We should be sensitive to these issues and initiate action in our way to see to it that these producers are rescued from this kind of crisis.

CUFFE: The Seasoning and Spice Association represent the manufacturers of herbs, spices, and seasonings in the UK. We wanted an interview with them about the issues raised in this programme, but they declined, saying that no-one was available.

SIGNATURE TUNE