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**Rainfall Situation and Crop Contingency Plans in different parts of the country (as on 24<sup>th</sup> July)**

The total rainfall situation from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 22<sup>nd</sup> July continued to be deficit in some parts of Indo-Gangetic Plains covering Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, East Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh, East Madhya Pradesh - Chhattisgarh, and Gujarat. However, during the week (15-21 July), excess to normal rainfall was received in the states of Punjab, Haryana, West Uttar Pradesh, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal. These rains gave a fillip to agricultural operations.

The country as whole so far (1<sup>st</sup> June to 22<sup>nd</sup> July) has received normal rainfall (-12%).

**Weather Outlook upto 27<sup>th</sup> July**

The monsoon has been vigorous over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and active over Bihar, West Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Konkan and Goa, Karnataka and Kerala over the past 24 hours. Fairly widespread rainfall is likely to occur over central, east and northeast India, west coast and along foothills of Himalayas upto 27<sup>th</sup> July.

The state-wise contingency measures are as follows:

**Bihar**

In Bihar, paddy transplantation is continuing in all the zones. In Zone II (Purnia, Supaul) about 50% area completed whereas as in Zone I (Dharbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Begusarai) the progress is only upto 35%. In Zone III (Patna and Gaya) the area covered is only 20%. As such no change of crop is suggested in all these areas. In case of the over-aged nurseries the tips (2-3 inches) to be cut while transplanting. The number of plants per hills may be increased from 2-3 to 4-5. In areas receiving water stress after transplantation, farmers are advised to give protection irrigation using ground water / shallow ponds through diesel pumps. In all uplands, only normal crops are recommended but short duration varieties to be used.

## Uttar Pradesh

In the State as a whole, paddy has been transplanted in over 50% area, red gram about 40% and maize 50%. Both sowing of rainfed crops and transplanting of paddy is in progress all over the state due to good rains received last week. In South Western region, adequate rainfall has now received which is delayed by two weeks. The normal rainfed crops are recommended by choosing short duration varieties. In uplands, direct seeding of short duration varieties like Narendra 97, Aswani, Pant Dhan 12 should be planted. In few pockets of low land if the rainfall is not sufficient for transplanting paddy, in those areas, rainfed crops like urd, moong, arhar, groundnut, and til are recommended. While transplanting paddy from over-aged nurseries, the seedlings should be cut 2-3 cm on the tips. Increase the number of plants from hill from 2-3 to 4-5. In maize and sugarcane, inter culture and weeding are recommended before top dressing.

## Orissa

In Orissa, both paddy and rainfed crops are undergoing water stress due to prolonged dry spells in several districts. Farmers are advised to use water from ponds or wells for protecting the rice nurseries and also transplanted paddy crop. Prolonged dry spells in several districts, has caused swarming caterpillar incidence. Community control measures are recommended for controlling. Farmers are advised to with-hold top dressing of fertilizers till good rainfall occurs. Hoeing and weeding are recommended in rainfed crops to conserve moisture. In fallow uplands which could not be planted till today, only short duration crops like green gram and black gram are recommended.

## Gujarat

Gujarat state continued to receive deficit rainfall. About 67 percent of the total sown area is covered by cereals, pulses, oilseeds and other crops under rainfed conditions. About 27 percent of the paddy under irrigated conditions was transplanted so far. Due to deficit rainfall conditions, farmers have been advised to sow maize cultivars of GM-6. Similarly, soybean cultivars like GUJ.Soybean-1 and 2, moongbean cultivar, GUJ.Moong-1 and 2 and castor cultivars GAUCH-1, 2, 4, 5 and GUJ-Castor-2 are recommended.

## Rajasthan

Medium to heavy rainfall was observed in southern and eastern parts of the state during the current week period. Almost all districts in eastern Rajasthan received good rainfall and the earlier sown crops are in good condition. Farmers have been advised to

remove excess water from the maize fields. The rainfall situation in west Rajasthan has improved during the last two days. Farmers who have sown crops in June and early July rains and the crop has totally dried due to dry spell are advised to re-sow the same crop with the short duration varieties.

### **Jharkhand**

In Jharkhand, the rainfall is still 50% deficit. But all the regions are receiving scattered rainfall. About 20% of paddy, 50% of maize, 27% of pulses and 20% of oilseed area has been covered. Although delayed in sowing, all the upland crops sown so far are in good condition due to scattered intermittent rains. In Santal Parganas zone, farmers have been advised to complete the sowing of upland crops by using short duration varieties and continue with the transplantation of paddy in low lands. In Palmau region also good rains have occurred recently and the rainfed crops sowing should be completed.

### **West Bengal**

In north Bengal, the rainfall is normal. However, southern Bengal region received only 50 percent of the normal rainfall. Due to insufficient rainfall, only 22 to 30 percent area under rice has been transplanted so far. Farmers have been advised to raise nurseries of short duration varieties like Kauvery (IET-355) and Annapurna, IET-4094 / Swarna. Microbial decomposition is recommended for jute retting.

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