

Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
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Rainfall Situation and Crop Contingency Plans in different parts of the country (as on 30th July)

The total rainfall situation from 1st June to 29th July has improved substantially and only few sub-divisions comprising of Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Madhya Pradesh are still in deficit. The rains in the last two weeks gave a fillip to agricultural operations particularly in M.P., Gujarat and Orissa.

The country as whole so far (1st June to 29th July) has received normal rainfall (-5%).

Weather Outlook upto 4th August

Fairly widespread rainfall would occur over west coast, northwest, east and northeast India upto 4th August.

The state-wise contingency measures are as follows:

Jharkhand

In Jharkhand, the rainfall is still -48% deficit. However, all the regions are receiving scattered rainfall. Although the sowing of uplands crops is delayed the crop condition is good due to scattered but intermittent rains. In Santal Parganas, north Chotapur and Palmau region farmers are advised to complete the sowing of direct seeded kharif crops like maize, millets, urd, fodder jowar, soybean, groundnut and pigeonpea on uplands in areas with adequate rainfall. In Kolhan region good rains have been received in the last one week. Transplanting of paddy in medium and low land is in progress and uplands crops like millets, urd, pigeonpea have also been sown in substantially large areas.

Bihar

In Bihar, scattered rainfall is hampering the paddy transplantation work in some areas. Farmers are transplanting paddy by providing irrigation from tubewell/borewell. In Zone I (Darbhanga, Madhubani, Begusarai, Champaran and Samastipur) and in few other areas of the state, transplanting is now slowed down for want of good rains. In several other areas, the transplanted crop is facing mild to moderate moisture stress. In all such regions,

farmers are advised to provide life saving irrigation using ground water. In upland areas which are yet to be sown due to delayed rains, vegetables and maize are recommended.

Uttar Pradesh

Upto 26th July, sown area of kharif crops in Uttar Pradesh is 67%. In upland rice areas which are not yet planted due to delay in rainfall, crops like urd, moong, pigeonpea, jowar, bajra, groundnut and Til should be sown. Overage paddy nurseries should be cut from top at the height of 3 inches before transplanting with increase of 3-4 plants instead of 2-3 plants transplanting per hill. In flood prone areas where the transplanted paddy crop has been damaged, double transplanting (Sanda method) of long duration varieties is recommended. Weed control is recommended in direct seeded rice either manually or using herbicide (Butachalor). Earthing up should be completed in sugarcane. In order to maintain adequate dissolved oxygen in the flooded fish ponds to the Spawns, transfer of spawns in another pond should be made mainlining water level at least 4-5 feet.

Orissa

In Orissa, due to good rains during 23rd - 26th July the stress conditions are relieved significantly in all the crops. In fallow uplands, where rainfed rice has not been planted till now, crops like ragi, greengram, blackgram, sesame, castor are recommended. Go for top dressing of non-paddy crops like maize, cotton and sesame after weeding and hoeing. In crops like maize, cotton and sesame planted in June, top dressing of recommended fertilizers is to be done immediately after weeding and hoeing. In medium and low lands, incorporate the Sesbania crop in the field itself. Beusuning is recommended in direct seeded rice. In areas where beusuning cannot be done due to less water weeding is recommended. In several districts, swarming caterpillar are reported on paddy which should be tackled by community control.

Gujarat

In Gujarat, 95% of the normal area under groundnut has been shown and the crop is in good condition. In areas where sowing is delayed due to inadequate rains, castor can be sown upto 15th August. Pearl millet and maize are not recommended now.

Rajasthan

In eastern Rajasthan, maize crop is in excellent condition. Top dressing is recommended in maize and sorghum after hoeing and weeding. Prepare ridges in maize and sorghum after 25 days of sowing. In fallow lands, only pulses (greengram - K-8-51, RMG-62) and sesame (RT-46, RT 125) are now recommended.