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**Rainfall situation and Crop Contingency Plans in different parts of
the country (as on 12th August)**

The rainfall in eastern states comprising West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar Plains, and Eastern Uttar Pradesh continued to be below normal. Rainfall in these regions is of sporadic nature and no large weather system has not moved into these regions. The rainfall situation in other sub-divisions of the country is satisfactory. The country as a whole so far received a normal rainfall (-5%).

Weather Outlook upto 16th August

Increase in rainfall activity along with foothills of Hamalayas and in the west coast upto 18th August. Isolated to heavy rainfall would occur at many places in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, West Uttar Pradesh, North Andhra Pradesh, South Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha in the next 48 years.

Except four states, *viz.*, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, the crop conditions in rest of the country is reported to be normal. Therefore, contingency plans for the above four states are given below:

Jharkhand

The state as a whole is having rainfall deficit of -49 percent. The overall scenario of the crop coverage in the state is paddy (29.14%), maize (67.10%), pulses (42.02%) and oilseeds (27.35). The upland crops sown earlier are reported to be in good condition, wherever rainfall was received in different agroclimatic zone. Due to water scarcity in rice fields, weed menace has become a big problem and farmers have been advised to control the weeds either by spraying weedicides or by manually. Wherever irrigation facilities are available, life saving irrigation may be applied to paddy. Under upland conditions, farmers are advised to take up thinning of the crops (to reduce 10% population) to conserve the moisture in the field. If the rainfall situation improves in the state in the coming days, farmers may complete the direct seeded *kharif* crops on uplands. In medium lands, short duration varieties of maize (Birsa Vikas Macca-2 and Birsa Macca-1) and pigeonpea (Birsa Arhar-1, UPAS-120, Narendera Arhar-1) can be sown.

In case good rains occur beyond 15th August, the farmers may take up sowings of horsegram (Madhu and Birsa Kulti-1) and Niger (Birsa Niger-1 and 2) upto 30th August. Farmers may also grow fodder crops like maize (African Tall and J-1066), Fodder Lobia (UPC-4200) and jowar upto the above period.

Bihar Plains

Due to continuous low and deficit rainfall in the state, transplantation of rice has been seriously hampered in almost all the regions. In places wherever the transplanted rice is in good conditions, farmers are advised to take up weed management immediately. In the drought affected regions, top dressing of urea may be postponed till good rains (10-15 cm). If good rainfall occurs in the next week, farmers are advised to take up sowing of short duration rice varieties like Saket-4, Prabhat, Saraoj, Richhariya, etc. in medium and low lands. Fodder crops like jowar, maize and Lobia can be sown upto 30th August. In upland areas, which are still fallow, farmers are advised to take up sowing of Toria and *September Arhar* upto 30th August.

Uttar Pradesh

Transplanting of rice completed in 91 percent of the targeted area. However, the crop is subjected to severe stress conditions due to scanty rainfall in the state. Double transplanting (sanda method) of long duration rice variety may be taken up in the flood prone areas, if the plant population is very poor. Weed control measures may be taken up for conserving the soil moisture in the fields.

With isolated rains received during the current week, farmers are advised to complete the *kharif* crop sowings such as blackgram (NDU-1, Pant Urd-35, Sekhar Urd-1, 2 & 3, Azad Urd-3), greengram (Pant Mung-1, 2, Narendra Mung-1, PDM-54, Pant Mung-4, Samrat, Asha-Malvia and Type-44), arhar (Bahar, N-1, Amar, Pusa-9, Malvia Vikas, PDA-11 and Azad, etc.) and bajra upto 20th August. Sowing of Toria and potato may be taken up beyond 25th August.

West Bengal

The continued to reel under deficit rainfall conditions, which affected the upland crops and also the rice nurseries. Mortality in transplanted rice was also reported from many places. For the crops which are facing severe water stress like maize, pulses and oilseeds in uplands, farmers have been advised to take up weeding and mulching may be done in maize and arhar to conserve the soil moisture. Supplemental irrigation may be provided wherever irrigation facilities are available. Wherever canal water is available, unpuddled transplanting of rice can be opted for economising water use.

In places where the crop could not be sown so far, sowing of urd (Navin), arhar (Bahar and Pusa-9) in uplands and early rice varieties in mid lands may be taken up upto third week of August. In rainfed lowlands, photosensitive rice varieties upto 65 days old seedlings can be transplanted @ 40-45 hill's/sq m. Double transplanting of rice can be done with 45 days old seedling of long-duration upto 30th August. If sowings are delayed upto 30th August, farmers are advised to sow winter arhar (Sarad and Pusa-9), urd (Navin) and sweet potato, horsegram as sole crop or mixed crop with sweet potato upto 20th September.
