

**Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
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**Contingency Plans and Alternative Cropping Pattern for
the Drought affected States**

This is only a summary of the Plans. Detailed zone-wise plans are given by the respective Agricultural Universities weekly.

Rainfall situation

The overall rainfall situation in the Country has improved substantially across sub-divisions. The country as a whole so far received rainfall higher (3%) than normal. However, sub-divisions of Assam-Meghalaya, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar plains and East Uttar Pradesh have been showing a deficit rainfall ranging from 24 - 44%.

Outlook (up to 22nd September 2010)

Scattered to fairly widespread rainfall would occur over northwest and east India. Fairly widespread rainfall would continue over northeastern states and central India.

Jharkhand

As on 17.09.2010, Jharkhand is still continuing with a deficit of 44% rainfall, which is an alarming situation.

- Farmers are advised for broadcasting of urea after weeding in late sown crops which are not facing water stress in areas receiving good rainfall.
- Farmers were advised for sowing of short duration crops like: Niger (var. Birsa Niger 1 & 2) and Kulthi (var. Madhu, Birsa Kulthi 1) as soon as rains occur on typical uplands, which are still fallow.
- Early sowing of Toria (var. P.T. 303, Panchali & Bhawani) and Potato (var. Kufri Chandramukhi, Kufri Asoka & Kufri Kanchan) has also been advised on uplands and medium lands, using normal sowing practices.

- Early sowing of vegetable Pea (var. Arkel, Azad Pea – 1) as a sole crop on upland and medium lands using normal package of practice has been recommended.

Bihar

In Bihar, though some rainfall was received in the last week, still some districts are under drought and the deficit rainfall continues to be 24%.

- Farmers are advised to apply urea after weeding and provide irrigation in paddy crop, which is in booting stage.
- Farmers are advised to do dusting in paddy with Folidol @ 20-25 kg/ha in the morning hours.
- Farmers are advised to take up sowing of pigeonpea (var. September arhar).
- Field preparation and sowing of Toria (RAU TS17, Taramira, PT303, PT507 and Panchali) is recommended.
- Sowing of cauliflower, tomato and brinjal and yambean is recommended.

Gangetic West Bengal

Gangetic West Bengal is still reeling under drought situation with a deficit of 33% rainfall.

- Transplanting of rice has been possible in low lands of southern West Bengal due to receipt of good amount of rainfall.
- As rainfall is not sufficient in medium to upland conditions, farmers are advised to take up sowing of groundnut, sesame, leafy vegetables, amaranthus and kali.

East Uttar Pradesh

In eastern Uttar Pradesh, with 26% deficit rainfall, drought like situation is prevailing in some districts.

- Sowing of early potato varieties viz., Kufri Chandramukhi and Kufri Bahar are recommended for highly deficit / scanty rainfall areas.
- Sowing of toria varieties viz., Type-9, Type-36, Narendra Toria-1 and PT-30 was advised in fallow lands.
- Drain out excess water from the fields of millets, oilseed and pulse crops.
- In areas where Khaira disease is noted in rice, spraying of 5 kg ZnSO₄ with 20 Kg urea in 800 lt. of water/ha is recommended.