

**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 (4%) than normal. However, sub-divisions of Assam-Meghalaya, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar plains and East Uttar Pradesh have been showing deficit rainfall ranging from 20 - 38%.

Outlook (up to 29th September 2010)

Fairly widespread rainfall would continue over northeastern states and south Peninsular India.

Jharkhand

As on 23.09.2010, Jharkhand is still continuing with a deficit of 38% rainfall, which is an alarming situation.

- Farmers are advised to broadcast urea after weeding in late sown crops.
- Due to receipt of good amount of rainfall in many parts of the state, sowing of toria (var. P.T. 303, Panchali and Bhawani), Mustard (var. Shivani, Varuna, Pusa Bold and Kranti) and Potato (var. Kufri Chandramukhi, Kufri Asoka and Kufri Kanchan) was advised in uplands and medium lands.
- Early sowing of vegetable Pea (var. Arkel, Azad Pea – 1) and other winter season vegetable crops like cauliflower, cabbage, brinjal and tomato on uplands and medium lands using normal package of practice was advised.

- Spraying of Endofil or Qunalphos @ 2 ml/lit of water to control attack of caterpillars in late sown pulses like urd bean and moong bean (whenever they appear) was advised.

Bihar

Though many parts of state have received very good rainfall in last week, still some districts are under drought and the deficit rainfall continues to be 20% below normal.

- Farmers were advised to ensure irrigation in the standing paddy crop from diesel pumpset where rainfall is low.
- Top dressing of nitrogen was recommended in standing paddy crop.
- Farmers were advised to finish sowing of rabi arhar by the end of this week.
- Temperature condition is becoming favourable for sowing of rapeseeds. Farmers are advised to prepare the land for sowing of rapeseed varieties viz., RAUTS-17, PT-303 and Bhawani for the districts of north Bihar.
- Application of 30 kg N, 40 kg phosphorous and 40 kg potassium per hectare at the time of final land preparation was recommended. Farmers may sow the crop after 26th September. Drainage in the field at each 10 m interval is advised for removing the rainwater.
- Dusting of Folidol dust @ 20-25 kg per hectare is advised in the standing paddy crop (which is in panicle initiation stage) to protect the crop from gundhi bug infestation.

Gangetic West Bengal

Gangetic West Bengal is still reeling under drought situation with 29% deficit rainfall.

- To reduce the loss due to monsoon failure, farmers may go for cultivation of crops like, mung (cv. Sonali, Panna, Amrita, Sujata), sesame (cv. Vadui til) and black gram (cv. Kalindi, sarala, nabeen).
- The farmers who could not grow Kharif rice till now may opt for cultivation of short duration (50-60 days) leafy vegetables like spinach, coriander and radish.
- Farmers were advised to start sowing of winter vegetables viz., hybrid tomato and ladys finger.
- Top dressing of nitrogen is to be avoided, if blast disease is prevalent.

East Uttar Pradesh

In eastern Uttar Pradesh, with 21% deficit rainfall, drought like situation is prevailing in some districts. So far 97.5% of the targeted crop area (92.76 lakh ha) was covered under different kharif crops.

- In flood affected areas, after the receding of flood waters, framers were advised to go for sowing of autumn sugarcane (varieties COS 95255, 88230 and 8436) and toria (varieties Type-9, Type-36, Narendra Toria-1 & PT-30)
 - Sowing of early potato varieties like Kufri Chandramukhi and Kufri Bahar and vegetables like spinach, radish, carrot, coriander, in highly deficit/scanty rainfall areas, are advised.
 - Early varieties of vegetable Pea viz., Azad Pea-3, Azad Pea-1 and Arkel were advised to be sown.
 - To control stem borer in maize crop dusting of 20 kg of 6% granules of lindane/ha was recommended.
 - For control of yellow mosaic in urd/mung, spraying of dimethioate 30 EC 1 liter/ha should be made.
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