

CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR DRYLAND AGRICULTURE

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Contingency plans for deficit areas of the country

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The South-west monsoon although set in time (29.5.2011) and mostly covered entire country except western parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan, northern parts of Himachal Pradesh and J & K. The country as a whole received 9 per cent above normal rainfall. However, northern parts, Western Rajasthan, Marathwada region of Maharashtra, Saurashtra and Kutch (66%) regions of Gujarat, Telangana (40%) and Rayalaseema (24%) regions of Andhra Pradesh recorded deficit rainfall since the onset of south-west monsoon. The deficit ranged from 22% (Coastal A.P.) to 86% (Gujarat region). Marathwada recorded 47% deficit rainfall. The following measures are suggested.

Marathwada region of Maharashtra

- Sowing of *kharif* crops to be taken up only after the receipt of sufficient rainfall.
- Intercultural operations may be taken up in vegetables, fruit crops and crops already sown under irrigation. Apply protective irrigation to sugarcane, vegetable, fruit and cotton crops sown under irrigated conditions.

Saurashtra and Kutch regions of Gujarat

- Already sown paddy nurseries need to be protected by irrigating during morning and evening.
- Pearl millet nurseries may be raised wherever irrigation facilities are available.
- Cotton and banana farmers are advised to give protective irrigation at close intervals.
- Intercultural operations may be taken up in Bt cotton crop sown under irrigation.
- In groundnut crop sown in Saurashtra region, intercultural operations may be carried out.

Rayalaseema region of A.P.

Chittoor District:

- Mechanical sowing of groundnut + Redgram in 7:1 ratio with tractor drawn seed drills.
- In already sown Groundnut + Redgram intercrop, hoeing may be taken up to suppress weeds and to create soil mulch.

Kadapa District:

- In areas where sole groundnut is the usual system, the intercrop of Groundnut/Redgram (7:1 or 11:1) may be taken up.
- In groundnut varieties like Narayani, K6, Greeshma and in Redgram variety LRG-41 may be preferred.
- A border crop of maize or jowar may be sown with the receipt of sufficient rainfall.

Kurnool District:

- In red soils where groundnut and redgram intercropping or groundnut is sown, dead furrows may be formed at 3-6 m spacing.
- Thinning may be carried out in sunflower and if germination is poor re-sowing may be done short duration varieties like Morden, DRSF-1 and NDSH-1 may be done.
- In Redgram if germination is poor, re-sowing with short duration varieties like ICPL-87 may be taken up.

Telangana region of A.P.**Adilabad District:**

- In cotton, gap filling may be taken up with the same cultivar. Pot watering may be done to save the emerged seedlings.
- Delay the fertilizer application till sufficient rains are received
- Lookout for the incidence of sucking pests.
- Intercultural operations may be taken up in already established crop. Foliar spray with 2% urea solution may be done.
- In soybean, 2% foliar spray may be taken up and intercultural operations with push hoe to control weeds be done.

Mahabubnagar District:

- In rainfed red soils if castor is already sown and population is low, gap filling may be taken up.
- If germination of maize and jowar crop is poor re-sowing with castor may be taken up.
- In rainfed black soils gap filling and thinning may be taken up in cotton.

Medak District:

- In black soils if sowing is already done in maize, thinning and mulching may be carried out.
- In new areas, short duration hybrids like KH-510, DHM-115 may be chosen.
- In jowar, dual jowar purpose variety and in redgram varieties like LRG-30, PRG-158 and Maruthi may be selected
- In Cotton short duration Bt cotton hybrid may be selected.

Nalgonda District:

- In shallow red chalka soils and medium to heavy soils in already sown cotton if the crop stand is poor gap filling may be taken up.