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**Rainfall situation and Crop Contingency Plans in different parts of the country (as on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011)**

The southwest monsoon rainfall is 4% deficit than the normal on the entry basis for the period 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011. Out of the 36 meteorological sub divisions 7 met sub divisions received deficit rainfall, 23 sub divisions received normal rainfall where as 6 met sub divisions received excess rainfall.

If the rainfall pattern is studied on micro (district) scale, Deficit/scanty rainfall is received in some districts of Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha.

**Main feature of weather forecast upto 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

Widespread rain/thundershowers would occur over Gujarat state, Jharkhand and Gangetic West Bengal. Fairly widespread rain/thundershowers would occur over northeastern states, remaining parts of east India and along west coast. Fairly widespread rain/thundershowers would occur over northwest India outside Rajasthan where it will be scattered. Scattered rain/thundershowers would occur over central India. Isolated rain/thundershowers would occur over interior parts of peninsular India.

**Odisha**

The state as a whole is having a rainfall deficit of 24%. Out of 36.5 lakh ha target area under rice in the State 24.5 lakh ha have been covered so far which is about 2.5 lakh ha less than last year. Coverage of non-paddy crops and vegetables is satisfactory being more than in the last year. The non-paddy crops suffered from some moisture deficit but recovering due to recent rains. Intercultural operations including fertilizer application are to be withheld in areas under dry spell. If more than 50% of the crop stand is damaged, fresh sowing is recommended.

If rainfall deficit continues for a week spray 2% Potash (MOP) in the rice nursery to increase tolerance to soil moisture stress for direct seeded rice. Save the seedlings by watering. Make the Lift Irrigation points operational for transplanted rice.

**If adequate rainfall occurs in a week:** Go for beushening followed by weeding and gap filling. Ensure top dressing of 35 Kg urea per acre in direct seeded rice. The duration of the rice variety should be shortened by about 15 days, if fresh nursery is to be raised. The suitable varieties are Khandagiri, Annada, Naveen, Lalat and Suradra for transplanted rice. Go for SRI method of rice cultivation in medium lands, as 10 to 12 days also seedling are required for transplanting. In case of over aged seedling (40 to 45 days), plant 4 to 5 seedlings per hill with 10% extra N as basal.

## **Bihar**

The state as a whole is having a normal rainfall. However, in some districts of South Bihar drought situation has set. In north Bihar (Zone I & II), 65 to 95 per cent transplanting has been reported. In South Bihar, 30 -35 per cent transplanting has been reported in Zone IIIB and 50 to 65 per cent in Zone IIIA. With good rainfall over past few days across the state, the standing paddy has fully recovered. Looking to current rainfall condition, transplanting of short duration rice varieties (*Turanta, Prabhat, Richhariya, Saroj, Saket*) are advised. In south Bihar particularly in Zone IIIB (Dry zone in Bihar), sowing of urd (Var T9, Navin), arhar (var Bahar, Narendra Arhar 1, Malviya 13), bajra, toria is recommended in upland areas.

## **Gujarat**

The state as a whole is having a rainfall deficit of 29%. The net sown area under different crops up to 8<sup>th</sup> August for cereals, pulses, oilseeds and other crops are 76, 72, 82 and 101 % respectively. State net sown area is 88%.

If rainfall occur during 10<sup>th</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> August for Anand, Kheda, Dahod, Bharuch Tapi, Narmada and Panchmahal districts, black gram (T-9), maize (African tall), Tobacco (Anand -119, GT-4 and GT-7), castor (GCH-2,4,5,6,7), sorghum (S-1049, C-10-2, GFS-4) are recommended for sowing in place of paddy and rainfed cotton and maize in Kheda, Dahod and Vadodara districts. While the sesame (Purva-1) and pigeon pea (BDN-2) may be added in above list for Dahod, Vadodara and Bharuch districts and same with addition of soybean (Guj-1, JS-335) and cluster bean (Pusa Navbahar) in Panchmahal district in place of paddy, rainfed cotton and maize.

In North Gujarat, castor (GCH-2,4,5,6,7), sorghum (S-1049, C-10-2, GFS-4), sesamum (Purva-1) and pigeon pea (BDN-2) are recommended for sowing in place of bajra and BT cotton and maize in Patan, Mahesana and Banaskantha districts.

## **Haryana**

The state as a whole is having a rainfall deficit of 34%. Widespread moderate to good rainfall has been recorded in Sirsa district, at many places in Fatehabad, Hisar, Bhiwani, Mohendergarh and Rewari. These rains auger well for the standing crops. In pockets where sowing has not been possible earlier, farmers may go for short duration bajra hybrids HHB 67 (improved) HHB 197 and moong variety Bharpai. A long dry spell in the northern parts of state is a cause of concern since most of the area is in paddy zone. However, the state Govt has ensured abundant power supply for pump sets and the crop condition is good in all parts of state. Farmers are advised to not to flood the rice crop. They should adopt water saving practicess and keep the field just moist. Cotton crop is in excellent condition in the State.

## **Punjab**

The state as a whole is having a rainfall deficit of 24%. Nearly 96% area is under assured irrigation conditions. Sowing of all the major Kharif season crops, i.e., rice cotton, maize,

pulses (moong, arhar) has been accomplished. The Kharif crops (except cotton) are in vegetative state. As such there are no major problems, apply light irrigation to crops (cotton, maize and pulses), wherever required.