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Rainfall situation and Crop Contingency Plans in different parts of the country (as on 24th August 2011)

The southwest monsoon rainfall is 1% deficit than the normal at the country level for the period 1st June 2011 to 23th August 2011. Out of the 36 meteorological sub divisions, 4 met sub divisions received deficit rainfall, 26 sub divisions received normal rainfall where as 6 met sub divisions received excess rainfall.

When the district level rainfall pattern is considered, few districts of Bihar, Odisha, Haryana and Gujarat are still under deficient / scanty category.

Main feature of weather forecast up to 29th August 2011

Fairly widespread rainfall/thundershowers would occur over many parts of the country outside west Rajasthan and over south interior peninsular India it may be isolated. Following advisory is given for areas under either deficit or excess rainfall.

West Bengal

The flood waters over six lakh hectares of agricultural land in 14 districts are slowly receding. The following contingent plan is suggested for the flood affected areas:

- Rice crop at 20 days after planting can survive this inundation but the crop may become water logged and turn yellow. Spray of 2% urea is recommended in such fields.
- In recently transplanted rice field, total crop failure may occur. Raise the seedling through 'Dapog' method and re-transplant the field as soon as flood-water recedes. Farmers may separate tillers from near-by unaffected field and re-transplant the affected field by end of August.
- If re-transplanting is not possible within August, farmers can sow short duration pulses (like black-gram, green gram) through broadcasting after one light ploughing.
- In case of vegetables, (mainly cucurbits, which escaped from flooding): Two sprays of 0.25% Fosetyl Al or Cyamoxanil-Mancozeb or Metalaxyl-Mancozeb at 10 days interval to control control downly mildew disease.

Jammu & Kashmir

During the month of August there was continuous rainfall of 283 mm in 2nd week out of which 119mm was recorded during the intervening night of 7 and 8th Aug. On 12th August about 102mm rain occurred resulting in flash flood in Jammu district. The intensity of rainfall occurred on 11 & 12 Aug, 2011 was 102mm in 3 hours. In Samba district also 103mm was recorded in 1hour which resulted in flash flood. The paddy crop in lower reaches was washed away completely. Water need to be drained out from maize fields under inundation. Top dressing of fertilizer to paddy may be delayed due to inclement weather.

Gujarat

Different regions of the state received rainfall ranging from 45 to 84 %. Kheda region received 45% deficit rainfall, while Rajkot district received 84% of normal rainfall. The net sown area under different crops up to 8th August for cereals, Pulses, oilseeds and other crops are 76, 72, 82 and 101%, respectively. The net sown area of the state is 88%.

In Kheda district, rainfall was below 50% of the normal up to 22th August 2011. Under this prevailing situation, if rainfall occur during 10th August to 25th August, Black gram (T-9), Maize (for fodder) (African tall), Tobacco (Anand-119, GT-4 and GT-7), Castor (GCH-2,4,5,6,7), Sorghum (for fodder) (S-1049, C-10-2, GFS-4) are recommended for sowing in place of paddy and rainfed cotton and Maize in Kheda. While Sesamum (Purva-1) and Pigeon pea (BDN-2) may also be sown in Bharuch district, in addition to the above.

Orissa

The State received Seasonal (June 1 to Aug 20) rainfall of 628 mm against the normal of 786 mm, which is 20% deficit. Five districts (Nuapara, Boudh, Deogarh, Boangir, Malkanagiri) have severe deficit rainfall ranging from -39.6% to -46.4%, nine districts (Sonepur, Bargarh, Angul, Jharsuguda, Korapur, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Ganjam Khordha) with deficit rainfall ranging from -20.1% to -39.5% and the rest 16 districts received normal rainfall. When rice crop water requirement for beushning and transplanting was considered, seven districts (Ganjam, Koraput, Bolangir, Boudh, Angul, Deogarh and Nayagarh) received less than minimum requirement of 265 mm from July 16 to Aug 20, 2011, Ganjam receiving the lowest, 168 mm.

As on 20th August 2011, the paddy coverage was about 31.0 lakh ha which was about 2.0 lakh ha less than the normal. Non-paddy crop coverage was satisfactory. In paddy areas where transplanting is not carried out yet, raise rice seedlings by Daipog method or practice SRI method. Select varieties of 90 to 100 days duration like Khandagiri, Annada and Naveen. In aged nurseries, spray 2% potash solution to increase tolerance to moisture stress.