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Rainfall situation and Crop Contingency Plans in different parts of the country (as on 9th September 2011)

The cumulative rainfall from southwest monsoon is in 3% excess at the country level for 1st June to 8th September 2011. Out of 36 meteorological sub divisions, 23 sub divisions received normal rainfall, 4 deficit rainfall and 9 received excess rainfall.

The spatial distribution of monsoon so far is not uniform leading to simultaneous occurrence of drought and flood conditions in some states. Though the division level rainfall figures are normal, at district / block level the distribution is quite skewed and erratic. Monghyr district in Bihar, Lahaul & Spiti in Himachal Pradesh, Rohtak in Haryana, Kargil, Ladak and Udampur in Jammu & Kashmir and Mansa, Sas Nagar Mohali in Punjab, Anj in Eastern Uttar Pradesh received scanty rainfall. Apart from these, another 60 districts in different states are facing deficit rainfall conditions. Most districts in Saurashtra and Kutch region received heavy rainfall during the past 5-7 days leading to excess rainfall and water logging.

Main feature of weather forecast up to 14th September 2011

Fairly widespread rainfall would occur over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, western Himalayan region, northeastern states and west coast. Decrease in rainfall over remaining parts of the country. Fairly widespread rainfall activity would continue along west coast and decrease in rainfall activity over central India.

Advisories for different states / regions

West Bengal

The flood waters over six lakh hectares area have receded completely. In the late transplanted rice fields farmers are advised to apply nitrogenous fertilizer @ 10 kg/ ha instead of 20 kg/ha. In areas where paddy crop was damaged due to floods in the last fortnight, and retransplanting is not possible, farmers are advised to sow short duration pulses like blackgram (c.v. Navin and T-9), greengram (c.v. T-44, PDM-44) by broadcasting. Land preparation for sowing of short duration vegetables like bottle gourd, cucumber and pumpkin may be taken up. Seed beds may be prepared for tomato, cabbage and cauliflower.

Bihar

Paddy crop has been planted in 85% of the normal area and the crop is in tillering to booting stage and early varieties are in panicle initiation stage. The spatial distribution of the rainfall during kharif 2011 is not uniform leading to moisture stress in Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Darbhanga and Saran districts. Though, the rainfall data indicates near normal condition in Muzaffarpur, Samstipur and Saran districts, but due to erratic distribution, the standing paddy crop is experiencing severe moisture stress at the sensitive stages. In the Kosi region, severe moisture stress has impacted standing paddy crop at panicle initiation stage. If the situation does not improve in the next 10 days and life saving irrigation is not possible paddy crop is likely to fail and farmers are advised to sow pigeon pea, toria and vegetables with the receipt of rainfall in the next fortnight.

On the other hand, heavy rainfall has occurred over Bhagalpur and some parts of Munger district severely damaging the standing maize, paddy, banana and vegetable crops. Farmers are advised to just drain out excess water from the fields.

Maharashtra

In Solapur region of Maharashtra, foliar application of urea @ 2% is recommended in bajra and maize if the soil moisture in the root zone is not sufficient for top dressing. In areas, with sufficient soil moisture, apply third dose of nitrogen to maize crop @ 40 kg/ha. If maize leaves are small and showing yellowing of the vein, farmers are advised to apply 10-15 kg of Zinc Sulphate per ha. Rabi jowar sowings may be taken up from 15th September onwards and varieties like Selection -1, Phule, Mauli, Phule Anuradha for light soils and Phule Chitra and Maladhandi-35-1 for medium soils and improved Phule Vasudha, Phule Yashoda, PVK Kranti and hybrids like CSH-15, CSH-19 may be chosen for deep soils. Safflower may be sown in the second fortnight of September in medium to deep soils using c.v. Bhima, Nari-6 (Non-thorny) and NH-1.

Odisha

In areas where, fair amount of rainfall is received and rice transplanting completed, weeding may be taken up immediately. After weeding, apply 15-20 kg N/ha if basal doses of fertilizer were applied or apply fertilizers @ 20-30 kg N, 40 Kg P and 40 Kg /ha in areas where basal dose was not applied. In direct seeded paddy sheath blight was noticed and farmers are advised to spray Validamycin @ 2ml/lit.

In areas where transplanting of rice were delayed by one month due to late receipt of rainfall, varieties like Khandagiri, Annada and Naveen may be preferred in medium lands and varieties like Lalat and Surendra may be preferred in low lands. In case of planting with 40-45 days aged seedlings, farmers are advised to plant 4-5 plants per hill with 10% extra nitrogen as basal. If planting of paddy is to be done with 60 days aged seedlings, farmers are advised to adopt 5-6 plants per hill with 50% extra dose of nitrogenous as fertilizer.

In upland areas where paddy transplanting could not be done, early rabi crops such as greengram, blackgram, sesame, niger and horsegram may be preferred. In sesame varieties like Kanak, Kalika, Uma, Usha, Tilothama and Neelima and in greengram c.v.K-851, PDM-54, PDM-11 and OUM-11-5 and in blackgram c.v. T9, Pant-U-19, Pant-U-30 and Pant-U-11 and in niger c.v. Donali and in horsegram varieties like Urmi, DS-1-2-2 and DS-1-2 may be preferred.

Punjab

Though the cumulative rainfall figures indicate deficit conditions in district like Taran Taran and Ferozpur, the agriculture scenario during kharif 2011 so far is quite satisfactory. Though, rainfall is in excess in districts like Bhatinda (30-38%), Faridkot (24%), Kapurthala (46%) and Moga (48%) districts, no damage to any of the crops has been reported.

Gujarat

Saurashtra and Kutch region of Gujarat received rainfall in excess (35%) and in some areas like Kalyanpur heavy downpour of 250 mm was received on 9th September. At this stage farmers are advised to drain excess water from standing crops.