

Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
Santoshnagar, Hyderabad – 500 059

Rainfall situation and Crop Contingency Plans in different parts of the country (as on 17th September 2011)

The cumulative rainfall from southwest monsoon is 4% in excess at the country level for 1st June to 17th September 2011. Out of 36 meteorological sub divisions, 24 sub divisions received normal rainfall, 3 deficit rainfall and 9 received excess rainfall.

Six districts of Bihar viz., Patna, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Rohtas and Buxur are reeling under flood waters due to sudden surge in Sone River due to heavy rainfall in the catchment area. In Bhojpur district alone 12,200 hectares of paddy, maize, oilseeds and other crops were severely affected. In Punjab, heavy rainfall occurred in Bhatinda, Mansa, Mukthsar and Abohar districts. In Bhatinda district rainfall so far during September month alone is 200 mm leading to flood like situation.

In Orissa, 19 districts were affected by flood due to torrential rain on 10th and 11th September 2011. In Saurashtra region of Gujarat heavy rain lashed Surendernagar, Rajkot and Junagadh districts during the last week. Apart from this, excess rainfall was recorded in six districts of Jharkhand, nine of Maharashtra, 28 of Rajasthan, nine of Uttar Pradesh and six districts of West Bengal.

On the other hand, drought like situation is continuing in Monghyr district of Bihar (60% deficit).

Main feature of weather forecast up to 22nd September 2011

Fairly widespread rainfall would occur over Chhattisgarh, East Uttar Pradesh and east & northeastern states. Subdued rainfall activity over northwest, west and southeast peninsular India.

Advisories for different states / regions

Bihar

Paddy, maize, oilseeds and other crops over 12,200 hectares in Bhojpur district (Bihar) were severely damaged and maize, paddy, banana and vegetable crops in Bhagalpur district are damaged due to heavy rainfall. Farmers are advised to drain out excess water immediately. In paddy fields, where the crop is partially damaged, gap filling has to be adopted if seedlings are available from 30-40 days old nurseries. If seedlings are not available, the survived hills are to be split into individual tillers and used for gap filling. Apply a booster dose of 50 kg urea and 30 kg of Muriate of Potash per hectare to hasten the establishment and promote more tillering. In Banana, the fallen trees may be cut leaving two suckers. Manuring @ 80 g of urea and 80 g of Muriate of Potash per plant may be done monthly for four months. If bunches are in mature stage, they may be covered with leaves and harvest within 15-20 days. In Samastipur, Muzaffarpur and Saran districts, paddy crop is

facing moisture stress due to dry spell but the rain on 14th September partially relieved. The crop is in booting to panicle initiation stage. Farmers are advised for top dressing of Nitrogenous fertilizer wherever soil moisture is adequate.

West Bengal

In uplands, 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. Sowing of redgram (c.v. Bahar, Pusa-9 and Narendra Arhar -1) and Kulthi (c.v. DV7, BR5, BR10, S67/26, 14, 31) may be taken up.

Odisha

The paddy crop is at tillering to milking stage in the flood affected districts. Farmers are advised to drain out excess water and remove the sand. If the damage is more than 50 per cent, pre-rabi sowings may be taken up with sesame (c.v. Uma, Usha, Nirmala, Prachi, Amit, Kanak, Kalika, Tilothama and Neelima), greengram (c.v. OBG-52, Sujata, LGG-460, TARM, PDM-139, IPM-2-14, K-851, PDM-54, PDM-11 and OUM-11-5), blackgram (c.v. TU94-2, LBG-402, OBG-17, B-3-8-8, Mash-338, T9, Pant-U-19, Pant-U-30 and Pant-U-11), niger (c.v. GA-10, Utkal Niger-150, Donali) horsegram varieties like Urmi, DS-1-2-2 and DS-1-2. In paddy, infestation of leaf folder and caseworm is likely and farmers are advised to spray chlorpyrifos @ 2 ml/lit to control leaf folder and trizophos @ 3ml/lit to control caseworm. The jute crop could not be harvested in time and harvested jute is in muddy waters. Farmers are advised to keep the jute bundles upright and go for retting after the water gets cleared of turbidity.

Punjab & Haryana

Cotton crop over two lakh hectares in Punjab is affected due to heavy rainfall and the extent of damage is more in Bhatinda district. About 50 per cent of the cotton area in Haryana is also affected. Farmers are advised to drain water from the fields as cotton is highly sensitive to standing water. A booster dose of 30 kg N/ ha may be applied and open up the soil by inter-cultivation as soon as possible for quick evaporation of moisture. Heavy rains may induce excessive vegetative growth in cotton and to contain this take up the nipping of tips.

Rains during September in Haryana augur well for basmati paddy and sugarcane crops. Farmers are advised to complete propping in sugarcane by the end of this month to prevent lodging.

Gujarat

Sesame seed crop and cotton in Saurashtra region of Gujarat were badly affected due to heavy rains. Groundnut crop sown early is likely to get affected from rust and leaf spots and farmers are advised to take necessary plant protection measures like spraying of Mancozeb @ 3g/lit. In areas where irrigation facilities are available, castor varieties GCH-4, GCH-5 and GCH-7 may be sown and in tobacco growing areas, transplanting of tobacco with varieties like Anand-119, GT-5 and GT-6 is suggested.