

**Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture  
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**Status of monsoon and contingency plans for deficit areas of the country**

Country as a whole received 17 per cent above normal rainfall since 1<sup>st</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2013. During the last 3-4 days, good rainfall occurred over Gangetic plains of West Bengal; eastern & western Rajasthan; Saurashtra & Kutch regions of Gujarat; and several parts Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh. Some parts of Jharkhand and Bihar received light rains. As on 24th July 2013, only 62 out of 625 districts received scanty rainfall affecting sowing and transplanting operations substantially. On the whole, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Northeastern states are still facing deficit rainfall conditions. Tamilnadu is a primarily NE monsoon beneficiary and NE states are high rainfall regions with paddy as a principal crop; rainfall situation and contingency crop planning only for Bihar and Jharkhand are given below.

**Bihar**

Though the state has experienced so far poor rainfall (26% deficit), since last 3-4 days localized light rainfall was experienced. Around, 30-40 per cent rice transplanting and 80-90 per cent maize sowing was reported from across the state. Further transplanting of rice has been ceased at many places especially in Gaya, Aurangabad, Munger, Shekhpura, Jamui, Lakhisarai, Gopalganj, Jehanabad, Siwan, Patna, Vaishali and Nawada districts and transplanted crop is facing moisture deficit stress.

Farmers are advised to provide life saving irrigation to the transplanted rice crop and adopt weed management practices. Transplanting of rice may not be taken up beyond 31<sup>st</sup> July under upland situation. However, if good rainfall occurs up to 15<sup>th</sup> August, short duration varieties such as *Turanta*, *Prabhat*, *Saket-4*, *Richhariya* may be transplanted in medium and low land situation. Otherwise, farmers are advised to grow urd (Var. T-9, *Navin* ) arhar (Var. Bahar, Pusa-9, Narendra Arhar 1, Malviya 13), Bajra, sweet potato (Rajendra mishrikand-11) in upland and medium land areas.

Finger millet varieties R 407, RAU 3 and RAU-8 and Kulthi varieties D.V.7, B.R.5, BR-10, S 67, S24, S67, S14 and S67, S31 up to August are advised under upland condition. Alternatively, prioritized sowing of Til (var. Krishna for entire Bihar and Kanke safed for South Bihar), intercropping of maize (Suwan, Deoki, Shaktiman-1, Shaktiman-2) + urd (T-9, Pant U-31, Pant U-19). Pigeonpea+ urd / til/ maize in 1:1 row ratio and vegetable crops like tomato, brinjal, early cauliflower and chilli will be profitable.

### **Jharkhand**

The state as whole has received 47.3% deficit rain as on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013 except for Simdega district which received + 16.9% rainfall. The worst affected districts were Koderma and Chatra with >70% deficit rainfall and no rice transplanting has been taken up so far whereas Khunti, Lohardaga, East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Gumla, Latehar, and Ranchi districts received < -50% deficit rainfall. Except for maize (73.7%), all other major crops have been covered in <30% of their normal areas.

Farmers are advised to protect the paddy nursery with irrigation. In areas where transplanting has not been taken up, less water requiring medium duration improved rice varieties ( Sahbhagi, Naveen, Arize 6444, Lalat etc.) on medium lands may be adopted. Provide protective irrigation to maize, pulse and oilseed crops.

*Note: The above is a general overview for the states. However, ICAR (CRIDA) has prepared district level contingency plans (covering all farming situations within the district) and placed in the websites of the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India ([www.agricoop.nic.in](http://www.agricoop.nic.in)) and CRIDA ([www.crida.in](http://www.crida.in)) for further details.*