

**Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture**  
**Hyderabad**

**Status of monsoon and contingency plans for some rainfall deficit areas**

Southwest monsoon has covered the entire country by July 17. During 1<sup>st</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> July, the country as a whole experienced 31% deficit rainfall. The rainfall was deficit by 35% over North-West India, 38% over Central India, 26% over Southern peninsula and by 22% over East and North-East India.

**Gujarat**

Rainfall was deficit by 57% in Saurashtra & Kutch region and by 61% in remaining parts of the state, during 1 June to 20 July. Cereals, pulses, oil seeds and other crops were sown over 2, 6, 23 and 29%, respectively of their normal area. Only 21% of the normal net sown area is covered under various crops in Gujarat. Region wise contingency plan for Gujarat state is as follows:

**a) South and Middle Gujarat region**

- Prefer soybean cv. GS-1,GS-2, JS-335.
- Transplant three weeks old nursery of Bajra (GHB-744, GHB-538,732).
- Prefer short duration varieties of Sunflower (cv. Modern and EC-68414 and Guj-1) and Sesame (cv. Guj. Til 1, 2, 10), blackgram (cv. T-9, Guj. Udid-1), Greengram (cv. GM-4, K-851, Meha), Cowpea (cv. Guj. Cowpea 1,2,4, Pusa Falguni).
- Sowing of grain Sorghum (cv. GJ-35, 36 and 37) and Fodder sorghum (cv. S-1049, C-10-2, Gundari, GFS 4,5) is recommended to overcome future fodder shortages.
- In paddy, varieties like GR-8,9, Sathi 34-36, Ambica and Gurjari can be transplanted up to 25<sup>th</sup> July.

**b) North Gujarat region**

- In sesame, varieties like GT-1, GT-2,GT-10, in sunflower - Modern, EC 68414 and in fodder sorghum - S-1049, C-10-2 are suggested.
- In cotton Hy-8, 10, V-797, G. Cot 13,21, 23 can be taken up.

**c) Saurashtra region**

- In groundnut, short duration Spanish bunch varieties like GG-2, GG-5, GG-7 and TG 37 A are recommended.
- In blackgram, T-9, Guj. Udid-1 and Greengram - GM-4, K-851, Meha are suggested.
- For fodder purpose, sorghum cv. CSH-6 and CFS-4 are recommended.
- In sesame cv. Purva-1, in cotton - G. cot-13, 21, 23, V-797, in pigeonpea - cv. BDN-2, ICPL-87, GT-100, GT-101, Vaishali may be preferred.
- For Kutch region, Guar cv. Guj. Gaur 1 and 2 are recommended.

**Maharashtra**

The rainfall was deficit by 46% in Vidarbha, 60% in Marathwada, 52% in madhya Maharashtra, and 26% in Konkan region. Contingency plan for Marathwada region is as follows:

- Farmers are advised to sow kharif crops viz., Cotton, Soybean, Pigeon pea, Bajra, Sunflower etc., only after receipt of sufficient rains (75-100 mm).
- Adopt intercropping systems like cotton + pigeon pea (6:1), soybean + pigeonpea (4:2), bajra + pigeonpea (3:3), etc. for minimizing risk.
- In case of soybean varieties viz., MAUS 71, JS 335 may be chosen and sowing may be done with seed treatment.
- A spacing of 90 x 20 cm may be adopted in pigeonpea varieties viz., BSMR 736, BSMR 853 and for low rainfall areas varieties like BDN 708 and BDN 711 are recommended.
- Staking should be done in one year old fruit orchards to avoid lodging due to high winds.

## **Rajasthan**

Rainfall was deficit by 41% in Rajasthan. The major recommendations are as follows:

- Avoid sowing of maize and sorghum crops at present. Instead, sowing of blackgram, greengram, cluster bean and sesame is recommended.
- Maize and sorghum can be sown for fodder purpose. In such case, improved varieties of fodder maize: (African Tall, Pratap Makka Chari-6) and fodder sorghum (Rajasthan Chari-1, Rajasthan Chari-2, Pratap Chari-1080, SSG-59-3) are recommended.
- In cluster bean -RGC-936; in blackgram-RBU-38, T-9; in greengram- SML-668, K851; in sesame (RT-46, RT-125) varieties are suggested.
- Intercropping of groundnut variety JL-24 or Pratap mungphali-2 with sesame at 6:2 row ratio is suggested.
- For eastern and western parts, only short duration varieties of Bajra (HHB-67, Improved, RHB-121, RHB-90 and Raj-171) are recommended for sowings up to 20<sup>th</sup> July as these mature in 65-80 days.

## **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

Rainfall was deficit by 42% in Coastal AP, 4% in Rayalaseema and 52% in Telangana. In Andhra Pradesh about 8.92 lakh ha (21.3%) area was so far covered under different crops against normal area of 41.70 lakh ha. In Telangana about 18.77 lakh ha area was covered (46.5%) so far as against normal sowing area of 40.38 lakh ha. Following suggestions may be taken up for these regions:

- Direct seeding of rice may be taken up with short duration varieties under dry conditions and later converted to wet paddy after receipt of good rainfall.
- In NSP command areas of Nalgonda, Guntur, Krishna and Prakasam districts as there is no water in reservoirs and chances of release of water in canals are bleak, farmers are advised to go for rainfed crops like maize, cotton, redgram, greengram wherever feasible.
- In Prakasam districts, farmers are advised to adopt closure spacing for cotton and redgram sole crops and form dead furrows for moisture conservation.

***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.***