

ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
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Status of monsoon and contingency plans for some deficit/excess rainfall areas

Onset of South-West monsoon during 2015 was delayed by 4 days and it has set over Kerala on 5th June. It has further advanced in to Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, parts of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. As on 15 June, the northern limit of south-west monsoon (SWM) is passing through Veraval, Surat, Ujjain, Narsinghpur, Raipur, Kalingapatnam, Krishnanagar and Darjeeling. Conditions are stated to be favourable for further advance of SWM in to some more parts of Gujarat, Odisha Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh; remaining parts of Coastal Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal and some parts of Jharkhand and Bihar during next 3 days. During 1-14 June, the country as a whole received 61.6 mm rainfall, which is 11% more than the normal (55.7 mm). The region-wise SWM rainfall status is: East and Northeast India (20% excess), Northwest India (6% deficit), Central India (12% excess) and South peninsula (1% excess).

The following is the amount of rainfall received during 1-14 June and contingency measures that are to be followed for the crops/cropping systems in the states mentioned.

Kerala

Kerala received 143 mm rainfall (48% deficit) compared to the normal.

- First paddy crop is in transplanting stage.
- Banana: Provide propping for bunched nendran plants. Protect soil moisture through trash mulching.

Karnataka

South interior Karnataka (62 mm) and North interior Karnataka (44 mm) received normal rainfall (8% excess and 2% deficit, respectively), while coastal Karnataka (215 mm) is facing deficit rainfall condition (39% deficit).

a) North Karnataka

- Sowing of green gram, sunflower, maize, Bt. cotton, red gram, bajra, sesamum and groundnut (bunch type) may be taken up as rainfall is predicted for next three days.
- Following intercropping systems can be adopted in light and medium black soils for efficient use of soil and water resources. Bajra + Groundnut (bunch) in 2:4 row proportion; Bajra + Red gram in 2:1 row proportion; Groundnut (bunch) + Red gram in 3:1 or 4:2 row proportion, Redgram + sesamum in 1:2 or 2:4 row proportion.

- Vaccinate livestock against Foot and Mouth disease (FMD vaccination), Black Quarter disease and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia.

b) South Karnataka

- Use recommended varieties of crops for the particular zone. Redgram : TTB -7, BRG - 01, BRG- 02, HYD -3C; Ragi : GPU- 28, MR -01, 02 and 06, KMR-301. Seeds are available in ATIC centre and National Seed Project (NSP), GKVK, Bangalore.

Maharashtra

Vidarbha (62 mm), Marathwada (65 mm) and Madhya Maharashtra (52 mm) regions received surplus rainfall (59%, 26% and 2% excess rainfall respectively, compared to normal), while Konkan region received 125 mm rainfall (36% deficit).

a) Konkan region

- Rice: Prepare raised beds of 1.2 x 10 m dimension for nursery in uplands.
- Mango: Harvest the mature mango fruits with the help on Nutan mango harvester at 80 to 85% maturity. Keep the harvested fruits in shade to prevent spongy tissue disease and from heat. Transport of harvested fruits should be done preferably during night hours. Do not apply any insecticides/fungicides 8 days before harvesting of mango fruits
- Fishery: Indent for fish seed at District Fisheries Department Office

b) Madhya Maharashtra

- Kharif sorghum: Use recommended varieties like SPV-462, 475, 946, SSV-84 and Phule amruta.
- Bajra: Use hybrids like Shradha (IHRBH-8609) Saburi (IHIBH-8924) and improved varieties like WCC-75, ICTP-8203.
- Sunflower: Use recommended varieties like EC-68414, Modern, SS-56, KBSH-11, SPSH-11.

Assam

The state received about 351 mm rainfall (64% excess).

- Rice: Farmers may take the advantage of current rainfall to complete the seedbed preparation for raising seedlings. Prepare nursery beds of 10 m long and 1.25 m wide in levelled, well-puddled soil. About 6-7 such beds are required to transplant one bigha (0.13 ha) of land.
- Fodder crops: Rooted slips of fodder crops like Hybrid Napier, Setaria and Guinea etc may be planted as there is sufficient moisture in the field. These fodder crops can also be raised as intercrop in the areca nut and coconut orchards.

- Animal: Go for vaccination against Foot & Mouth disease and other bacterial diseases in bovine population (cattle, goat, buffalo etc).

Odisha

The state received 64 mm rainfall (6% deficit).

- Sowing of cotton, groundnut, castor and red gram can be undertaken.
- Upland paddy can be grown with very early or early maturing varieties such as Khandagiri and Sahbhagi, which are of less than 100 days duration.

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) and CRIDA (www.crida.in) for further details.