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**Rainfall situation and Crop Contingency Plans in different parts of the country (as on 6<sup>th</sup> August)**

The rainfall situation in the country has improved substantially in many sub-divisions. However, the sub-divisions of Assam and Meghalaya, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar Plains and Eastern Uttar Pradesh are under deficit. At present, a low pressure system over Orissa, Chhattisgarh and adjoining East Madhya Pradesh is bringing good rains. The country as a whole so far has received normal rainfall (-2%).

**Weather Outlook upto 11<sup>th</sup> August**

Fairly wide-spread rainfall is likely to occur over west coast, northwest India and northeastern states. Contingency crop advisories in few states reporting deficit/surplus rain are as follows:

**Jharkhand**

The rainfall deficit (-47%) in the state is continuing as such. However, scattered rainfall occurring in the districts. The State Government has declared, 12 out of 24 districts (Ranchi, East Singhbhum, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Giridih, Jamatra, Khunti, Saraikela, Chatra, Palamu, Ramgadh and Latehar) as drought affected. Overall crop coverage in the state is paddy 26.9%, maize 65.1%, pulses 38.9% and oilseeds 26.9%. Upland crops sown earlier are in good condition particularly in Santhal Paraganas and North Chota Nagpur region.

Farmers have been advised to continue the sowings of direct seeded *kharif* crops like maize, urd, pigeonpea upto 15<sup>th</sup> August. Direct seeding of short duration paddy varieties (Vandana, Lalat and Naveen) can be planted in medium lands upto 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Bihar Plains**

The overall rainfall deficit in the state is -26 percent. Isolated rainfall has been reported in different zones of the state. Due to continuous deficit rainfall situation, paddy transplantation has been affected in the many parts. Paddy seedlings have become over-aged and the nurseries are drying up. Bihar Government has declared 28 out of 38 districts as

drought affected. Only 38.5 percent area has been covered by transplanted paddy so far in the state.

Farmers are advised to provide supplemental irrigation for the transplanted rice from tube wells by diesel pumps. The farmers may take up sowings of short duration pulses and oilseeds where paddy could not be taken up.

### Uttar Pradesh

Rainfall received in the state upto 3<sup>rd</sup> August is 284 mm (71%) against the normal of 403 mm. Out of 72 districts in the state, 3 districts received excess rainfall, 21 districts normal, 19 deficit and 29 districts received highly deficit and scanty rainfall. Transplanting of paddy is completed in 48.64 ha against target of 60 lakh ha which is 81 percent of the targeted area. Seventy four percent of the targeted area under pigeonpea and 95 percent under maize are covered so far. As reports last came in, about 80 percent of targeted area under *kharif* crops was covered in the state so far.

The farmers have been advised to cut the top of the over-aged rice seedlings upto 3 inches before transplanting with increased plant density (3-4 plants) per hill. In flood prone areas where the transplanted paddy crop has been damaged, double transplanting (Sanda method) of long duration varieties is recommended. Weed control is recommended in direct seeded rice either manually or using herbicide (Butachalor). Earthing up should be completed in sugarcane.

### Orissa

Widespread rains are received from 24<sup>th</sup> July onwards in almost all parts of the state. The agricultural operations like beushuning and transplanting of paddy crop are in progress except in some pockets in the coastal districts. The sowing of rainfed crops in upland areas are progressing well. The overall crop situation in the state is near normal.

In view of the continuous rainfall situation, the farmers are advised to provide adequate drainage in inundated areas. Top dressing of fertilizer in all the crops may be taken up with this wet spell. Swarming caterpillar has been noticed at many places in the state and farmers have been advised to take up to control the caterpillar damage through community mobilization.