

## **Contingency Plans and Alternative Cropping Pattern for the Drought affected States**

### **1. Jharkhand**

The state has recorded 48% deficit rainfall. However, there have been scattered rainfall in different districts which are useful for continued agricultural operations. The following is the current status and suggested contingency:

- Out of 16 lakh ha of paddy area, only 5.2 lakh ha has been transplanted. In west Singhbhum and Saraikela districts where the paddy is directly sown more than 80% area is completed and the crop is in good condition.
- In the 10 lakh ha of paddy area which is yet to be transplanted in uplands and medium lands, five alternate crops like urd bean, moong bean, kulti, pigeonpea and niger are suggested upto the end of August.
- In low lands where the paddy has been transplanted supplemental irrigation may be given wherever feasible.

### **2. Assam**

Although the state has recorded deficit rainfall of -30%, the area has been covered as per target and as such the crops are not facing any drought. The only problems faced by the crops are pests and diseases due to increment weather for which suitable recommendations and agro-advisories have been given to the farmers by the State Agricultural University and Agricultural Department.

### **3. Easter Uttar Pradesh**

- Eighty five percent of the targeted area of the paddy was transplanted but the crop has been experiencing water stress conditions. However, during the last two days, good rains are received in many of eastern UP which have given life to paddy and other rainfed crops like pigeonpea, sesame, black gram and sorghum.
- In the remaining areas where the crop could not be sown, farmers are advised to go for fodder sorghum, fodder pearl millet, sesame, pigeonpea (Bahar, N-1, Amar, Pusa-9, Malvia Vikas, PDA-11 and Azad, etc.), black gram (NDU-1, Pant Urd-3 & 5, Sekhar Urd-1, 2 & 3, Azad Urd-3), greengram (Pant Mung-1, 2, Narendra Mung-1, PDM-54, Pant Mung-4, Samrat, Asha-Malvia and Type-44) upto 25<sup>th</sup> August beyond which only rabi cropping is possible.

- Farmers are advised to take up weed control measures immediately for conservation of moisture. Foliar application of nitrogenous fertilizers in rice and maize are recommended wherever rainfall has occurred.

#### 4. Gangetic West Bengal

- The state recorded -32% deficit rainfall. For upland rainfed crops (like maize, pulses and oilseeds) facing moisture stress weeding and mulching are recommended to conserve the soil moisture.
- Supplemental irrigation may be provided to paddy wherever irrigation facilities are available. Wherever canal water is available, unpuddled transplanting of rice can be opted for economizing water use.
- The farmers in Nadia, North 24-Paraganas, Mushidabad are advised to use ground water judiciously to avoid arsenic problem.

#### Alternative crops

- In places where the crop could not be sown so far, sowing of urd (Navin), arhar (Bahar and Pusa-9) in uplands and early rice varieties in mid lands are recommended upto 31<sup>st</sup> August.
- In rainfed lowlands, photosensitive rice varieties upto 45 days old seedlings can be transplanted @ 40-45 hill's/sq m. Double transplanting of rice can be done with 45 days old seedling of long-duration varieties upto 30<sup>th</sup> August.
- If sowings are delayed upto 30<sup>th</sup> August, farmers are advised to sow winter arhar (Sarad and Pusa-9), urd (Navin) and sweet potato, horsegram as sole crop or mixed crop with sweet potato upto 20<sup>th</sup> September.

#### 5. Eastern Madhya Pradesh

- The rainfall is almost normal (-19%) in the region. Some districts in the region are facing deficit rainfall conditions resulting in delay in paddy transplanting.
- In such regions, no more paddy direct sowing or transplanting are recommended from now onwards.
- Even rainfed crops like soybean, pigeonpea and blackgram are not recommended now.
- Farmers are advised to conserve the moisture for *rabi* crops through soil or weed mulching.

## 6. Bihar

- Due to continuous low and deficit rainfall in the state, transplantation of rice has been seriously hampered in almost all the regions. In places wherever the transplanted rice is in good conditions, farmers are advised to take up weed management immediately.
- In the drought affected regions, top dressing of urea may be postponed till the receipt of good rains (10-15 cm). If good rainfall occurs in the current week, farmers are advised to take up sowing of short duration rice varieties like Saket-4, Prabhat, Saraj, Richhariya, etc. in medium and low lands.
- Fodder crops like jowar, maize and Lobia are recommended upto 30<sup>th</sup> August.
- In upland areas, which are still fallow, farmers are advised to take up sowing of Toria and *September Arhar* upto 30<sup>th</sup> August.

*Note : This is a overall picture and summary of the contingency plans. Detailed plans are available in the web sites of the respective State Agricultural Universities.*

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