

Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
Santoshnagar, Hyderabad

Rainfall situation

The overall rainfall situation in the Country as whole has improved substantially across sub-divisions. The country as a whole so far received normal rainfall (-1%). However, the sub-divisions of Assam-Meghalaya, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar plains, and East Uttar Pradesh have been showing a deficit rainfall ranging from 23 - 46%.

Outlook:

Increase in rainfall activity (up to 5th September) over North-West India, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. Rainfall over the Country as a whole for the September 2010 is likely to be normal. Quantitatively September rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 115% of long period average with a model error of 15% as per IMD. In view of this outlook, the following agro-advisories are given:

Jharkhand

As on 01.09.2010, Jharkhand is continuing with a deficit of 46% rainfall which is an alarming situation.

- In upland and medium land areas, which are still fallow, farmers are advised to take up sowing of Toria (cvs. Panchali, PT303, Bhavani) up to 15th September.
- Short duration crops like Urd bean (var. Pant U19, Pant U31, Birsa Urd 1, Shekher 2) and greengram (varieties Pusa Vishal, Samrat, Medha) are also suggested.
- Groundnut and sesame are also recommended.
- Early potato varieties like Kufri Chandramukhi, Kufri Ashoka and Kufri Khan are recommended for medium lands and uplands.
- Kulthi varieties Madhu, Birsa Kulthi 1 are recommended for uplands and medium lands up to 15th September.
- Niger (Birsa niger 1 and 2) is also recommended for medium lands.
- In low lands, there is no alternative to paddy. Hence, farmers are advised to continue with transplanting of nurseries with a specific advise of increasing number of seedlings (5-6 per hill) and additional fertilizer dose of 10% over recommended levels.
- Forage crops like maize (African Tall, J 1006) lobia (UPC4200) Mote (Vidhan 1) are also recommended for uplands and medium lands.

Gangetic West Bengal

Gangetic West Bengal is still reeling under drought situation with a deficit of 34% rainfall. About 20% mortality in transplanted rice has been reported.

- In fallow areas, vegetables (cabbage, cauliflower, potato) and mustard may be sown/transplanted in the last week of September as early rabi crops.
- To compensate for losses in kharif rice production, farmers are advised to prepare for cultivation of Boro rice. The recommended varieties are IR64, IR36, Krishna Hamsa, Kshitish, Gotra-1, PHB 71, KRH 2, CNRH 3, JKRH 401, DRRH 2. Adoption of best management practices results in good yields. Start the nursery during first week of December. In case of low temperatures, during early January,

protect the crop using plastic covers. The main crop also needs to be protected from low temperatures during January by irrigation.

East Uttar Pradesh

In eastern U.P., also drought like situation is prevailing in some districts.

- Sowing of pearl millet, blackgram, greengram, sesame and fodder millet is recommended. Beyond that, fodder cowpea and fodder pearl millet, toria and niger may also be taken up till September 2010.

Bihar

In Bihar, though there is a good rainfall in the last two weeks, still some districts are under drought and the deficit rainfall continues to be 23%.

- Do not take up direct sowing of rice in the present situation. With rainfall that occurred across districts, farmers are advised to take up transplantation of short duration varieties of rice like Turante, Prabhat, Richhariya.
 - Farmers are advised to take up sowing of pigeonpea (var. September arhar), blackgram (T9, Naveen Pant Urd 30, Urd 19) followed by late rabi crops.
 - In fallow lands, in September winter maize (Shaktiman 1, 2, 3 & 4, Lakshmi, Rajendra hybrid 1, 2) is recommended.
 - In case of good rains up to September 10, Toria (RAU TS17, Taramira, PT303, PT507, Panchali) should be sown as a catch crop. If Toria seeds are not available, Agarni variety of mustard can be grown as replacement.
 - In case of rains by late September, lentil is recommended as a rabi crop.
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