

ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
Hyderabad

Status of monsoon and agromet advisories/ contingency plans for some deficit/excess rainfall areas

After covering the entire country on 26 June, the monsoon has weakened. However, heavy rainfall was received in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir during last week. During June 1- July 12, the country as a whole received 266 mm rainfall, which is 2% less than the normal (271 mm). The region-wise SWM rainfall status is: East and Northeast India (5% deficit), Northwest India (25% excess), Central India (6% deficit) and South peninsula (11% deficit). Out of 36 meteorological sub divisions in the country, 11 are facing deficit rainfall condition; 17 are facing normal rainfall condition and 8 with excess rainfall condition. Districts where rainfall during 6 July to 12 July was less than 50% of normal are identified and is depicted in figure 1. The following is the amount of rainfall received during June 1- July 12 and contingency measures that are to be followed for the crops/cropping systems in the states mentioned.

Kerala

Kerala received 686 mm rainfall (29% deficit compared to the normal).

- Paddy: irrigate the field before cracks appear in the soil. Keep the crops weed free
- Coconut: irrigate only if the soil is dry. Protect soil moisture through trash mulching.

Karnataka

South interior Karnataka (252 mm) received 10% excess rainfall; North interior Karnataka (98 mm) and coastal Karnataka (982 mm) received 36 and 25% deficit rainfall, respectively.

a) North Karnataka

- Crops recommended for sole and intercropping in shallow black soils and red soils: pearl millet, pigeonpea, sesame, foxtail millet, horse gram, castor, pearl millet + castor (2:1), pearl millet + pigeon pea (2:1).
- Medium black soils: pearl millet, pigeonpea, castor, chilli, sesame, foxtail millet, onion, pearl millet + castor (2:1).

Maharashtra

Vidarbha (285 mm) received normal rainfall; Konkan (1129 mm) and Madhya Maharashtra (183 mm) and Marathwada (124 mm) regions received deficit rainfall (22%, 23% and 40% deficit rainfall respectively, compared to normal). As on July 11, 61% of normal *kharif* sown area has been covered in the state as a whole (14.53 m ha) under various crops.

a) Madhya Maharashtra

- Castor and sunflower crops are recommended instead of black gram, soybean and green gram to reduce the risk of crop failure.
- Groundnut, pigeonpea and other pulses should be treated with fungicides and rhizobium culture before sowing.

b) Marathwada

- Undertake soil moisture conservation practices like mulching; apply light irrigation to crops by drips/sprinklers wherever irrigation facilities are available.
- Light hoeing in soybean is recommended to conserve soil moisture.
- Irrigate sugarcane fields using alternate furrow method.

Gujarat

Saurashtra and Kutch region received 136 mm rainfall (10% deficit) whereas Gujarat region received 138 mm rainfall (47% deficit).

- Cotton: the crop is in early vegetative stage. Carry out intercultural operations, weeding and gap filling in early sown crops to conserve soil moisture and to maintain optimum plant population.
- Groundnut: provide light irrigation under moisture stress condition.

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.

