

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: August 16, 2024

Report Number: IN2024-0038

Report Name: IMD Forecasts Excess Rains During Second Half of Monsoon

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

Report Category: Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security, Grain and Feed, Oilseeds and Products, Cotton and Products, Agriculture in the News

Prepared By: Dhruv Sood

Approved By: Rhiannon Elms

Report Highlights:

On August 1, India's Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an above normal rains forecast for the second half (August to September) of the southwest monsoon. Cumulative rainfall as of August 11 was seven percent above the long period average (LPA), with central and southern India receiving 16 percent and 23 percent above normal rainfall respectively. Rains in July improved reservoir storage and boosted planting prospects, with Kharif sowing three percent higher than last year. Higher planted area was observed for pulses, maize, paddy and groundnut.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Ministry of Earth Sciences/Indian Meteorological Department's (IMD) website <https://mausam.imd.gov.in/>. The U.S. Consulate General Mumbai – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), USDA and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of India has not officially endorsed this report.

IMD Forecasts Above Normal Rains For 2024 Monsoon Season

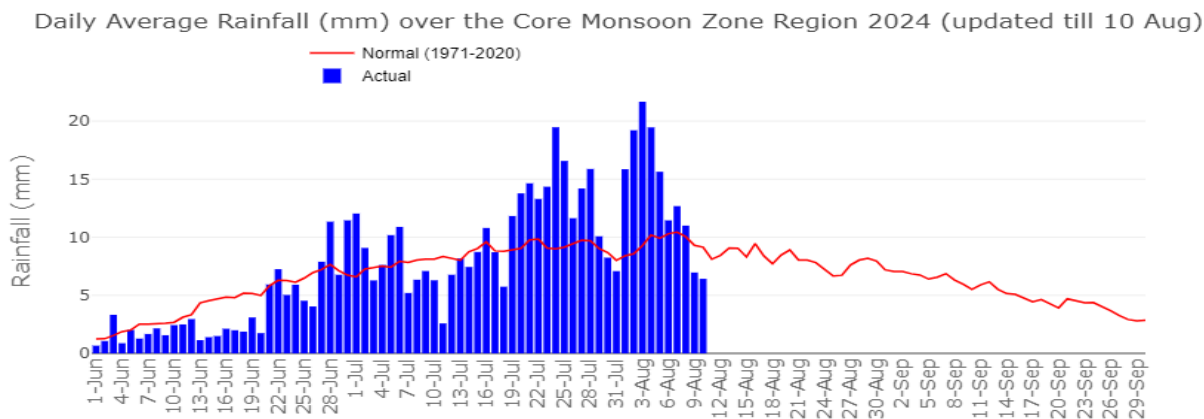
On August 1, IMD [published](#) a rainfall forecast for the second half of the southwest monsoon season (August to September) at above normal (106 percent of the long period average (LPA)/fifty-year average). Spatial distribution suggests normal to above normal rainfall is likely over most of the country except parts of northeast, Ladakh, Saurashtra and Kutch, and some isolated pockets of central and peninsular India where below normal rainfall is likely. IMD has also forecast August rains to be normal (94 to 106 percent of LPA), with normal in central India which will be beneficial for crops in growth and development stages.

Cumulative monsoon rainfall as of August 11 was seven percent above LPA, with central and south India receiving 16 percent and 23 percent above normal rainfall respectively. States with deficit rainfall include Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and states in northeast India.

Sowing Progress

Kharif sowing gained pace and is three percent higher than last year as of August 2, but 17 percent lower than the five-year average (refer table 1). After stalling and delivering deficient rains in June, July rainfall replenished reservoir levels and significantly progressed kharif sowing. Additionally, sowing is underway in central and southern states, with area planted for pulses up by eleven percent, maize by ten percent, groundnut by twelve percent, and paddy by five percent. States with higher cumulative sowing so far include Karnataka and Maharashtra (pulses), Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra (maize), Gujarat (groundnut), and Uttar Pradesh (paddy).

Figure 1. Average Rainfall over Core Monsoon Zone Region



Source: Climate Research & Services, India Meteorological Department

July Rains Improve Reservoir Storage

India's Central Water Commission monitors the storage status of 150 reservoirs around the country on a weekly basis. The latest reservoir storage [bulletin of August 8](#) shows current levels at 115.74 billion cubic meters (BCM) - 65 percent of total live storage capacity, up from 108.64 BCM (61 percent) as compared to last year. States with a higher percentage of reservoir levels as compared to last year are Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Table 1. Kharif 2024 Crop Sowing Progress (in million hectares)

Crop	Area Sown as of August 2, 2024	Area Sown as of August 2, 2023	Normal Area (Five-year Average)	Y-o-Y Change	Change from Normal	Absolute Change
Paddy	27.691	26.301	40.155	5%	-31%	1.390
Pulses	11.060	9.971	13.602	11%	-19%	1.089
- Arhar	4.189	3.327	4.555	26%	-8%	0.862
- Urdbean	2.596	2.621	3.676	-1%	-29%	-0.025
- Moongbean	3.162	2.815	3.699	12%	-15%	0.347
- Kulthi	0.016	0.020	0.19	-20%	-92%	-0.004
- Moth Bean	0.786	0.089	1.032	783%	-24%	0.697
- Other Pulses	0.311	0.299	0.449	4%	-31%	0.012
Coarse Cereals	16.559	16.037	18.103	3%	-9%	0.522
- Jowar	1.353	1.278	1.601	6%	-15%	0.075
- Bajra	6.270	6.599	7.263	-5%	-14%	-0.329
- Ragi	0.318	0.397	1.096	-20%	-71%	-0.079
- Small Millets	0.393	0.307	0.447	28%	-12%	0.086
- Maize	8.225	7.456	7.696	10%	7%	0.769
Oilseeds	17.968	17.454	19.018	3%	-6%	0.514
- Groundnut	4.406	3.924	4.528	12%	-3%	0.482
- Soybean	12.377	12.051	12.295	3%	1%	0.326
- Sunflower	0.066	0.055	0.140	20%	-53%	0.011
- Sesamum	0.951	1.007	1.026	-6%	-7%	-0.056
- Niger	0.023	0.011	0.122	109%	-81%	0.012
- Castor	0.141	0.401	0.907	-65%	-84%	-0.260
- Other Oilseeds	0.004	0.005	-	-20%	-	-0.001
Sugarcane	5.768	5.711	5.115	1%	13%	0.057
Jute and Mesta	0.569	0.629	0.674	-10%	-16%	-0.060
Cotton	10.843	11.819	12.934	-8%	-16%	-0.976
Total	90.458	87.922	109.584	3%	-17%	2.536

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Attachments:

No Attachments.