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India

Agricultural Situation

Monsoon, July 22

1998

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Report Highlights:

After receiving good rains through the first half of July, the monsoon activity slowed down during the week ending July 22. The monsoon's performance during the past two weeks was poor in several key agricultural areas. However, cumulative rainfall during June 1 to July 22 was normal or above normal in 29 out of 35 weather subdivisions.

Includes PSD changes: No
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After receiving good rains through the first half of July, the monsoon activity slowed down during the week ending July 22. Generally dry weather conditions prevailed in most parts of

central and western India and in Orissa and Bihar Plateau. Only 14 out of the 35 weather subdivisions received normal or above normal rainfall during the week. However, cumulative rainfall during June 1 to July 22 was normal or above normal in 29 out of 35 weather subdivisions. The monsoon's performance during the past two weeks was poor in several key agricultural areas which include Saurashtra & Kutch (peanut), Gujarat region (millet and cotton), East Madhya Pradesh (rice), Orissa (rice) and most parts of Maharashtra (sorghum and cotton). However, according to local weather reports there was a revival in the monsoon activity towards the end of the week ending July 29. Following is a commodity by commodity review of the crop situation.

PEANUTS: Heavy early season rains following a cyclonic storm enabled early planting in many peanut growing areas of Gujarat. The region again got good rains during the first half of July. However, conditions have subsequently been quite dry and the crop will need another spell of rains soon to keep yields on track. Typically peanut requires moderate but uniformly distributed rains during the entire growing period to realize optimum yields. Rainfall distribution in the southern peanut growing states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka has been generally satisfactory. In this region, unlike in Gujarat, the window of opportunity for planting peanut is much wider.

SOYBEANS: In the major soybean growing region of West Madhya Pradesh, rains started late which delayed planting operation. However, following excellent rains during the first week of July, extensive planting took place. In the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, the second largest soybean growing state, rainfall distribution has been by and large below normal but planting is reported to be normal. In Rajasthan, the third major producing state, rainfall distribution has been generally satisfactory. Conditions during the past two weeks have been quite dry in all soybean growing regions. According to the Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA), total area planted to soybeans this year is likely to be somewhat higher than last year's level at 6.0 mha. Due to the poor quality of planting seeds saved by farmers from last year's rain damaged crop, some farmers experienced germination problems.

RICE & COARSE GRAINS: Cumulative rains through July 22 were normal in major rice growing states except Orissa and East Madhya Pradesh, where there has been a 27-30 percent deficiency. Some of the rice growing regions in north eastern India experienced heavy rains and floods damaging some rice areas. Rice transplanting is largely completed in most states. Except for a small increase in rice area in Punjab and Haryana, where farmers switched from cotton to rice, no significant change in rice acreage is expected. Continued normal rains are necessary to achieve optimal yields as 50 percent of the rice is grown under non-irrigated conditions. Rains have been generally favorable in most millet and corn growing states but below normal in sorghum growing areas of Maharashtra.

COTTON Most of the cotton growing areas have received adequate rainfall. However, rains during the past two weeks have been scanty in parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra which is causing some concern. The crop would benefit immensely from a couple of good rains in the next few days. Crop sowing in the northern states, where the crop is mostly irrigated, is complete and the crop is progressing well under adequate soil moisture conditions. Planting in most of the rainfed cotton growing areas of central and southern India is progressing on schedule under normal to good southwest monsoon precipitation. Due to high 1997/98 end season prices and very favorable planting conditions, the 1998/99 cotton area is estimated to increase marginally from last year's level.

The following tables show actual and normal rainfall during the week ending July 22, cumulative rainfall during June 1 to July 22, and the relative share (area) of major monsoon season crops by weather subdivisions.

		Rainfall (in mm) during the week of					
WZ#	Name of Weather Zone		July 22		June 1 - July 22, 1998		
		Actual	Normal	%Deviation	Actual	Normal	%Deviation
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	41	70	-41	683	708	-4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	247	160	54	1589	1095	45
3	Assam & Meghalaya	140	111	26	1086	989	10
4	Nagaland & Manipur	41	70	-41	460	625	-26
5	Sub Himalayan West Bengal	184	135	36	1151	965	19
6	Gangetic West Bengal	87	67	30	410	463	-11
7	Orissa	49	79	-38	344	468	-26
8	Bihar Plateau	28	75	-63	286	425	-33
9	Bihar Plain	87	68	28	411	391	5
10	East Uttar Pradesh	126	74	70	452	319	42
11	West Uttar Pradesh	91	66	38	354	261	36
12	Hills of West Uttar Pradesh	121	109	11	521	475	10
13	Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi	56	43	30	314	172	83
14	Punjab	42	47	-11	283	169	67
15	Himachal Pradesh	57	88	-35	378	329	15
16	Jammu & Kashmir	34	44	-23	157	155	1
17	West Rajasthan	2	21	-90	147	94	56
18	East Rajasthan	18	52	-65	280	209	34
19	West Madhya Pradesh	30	71	-58	314	332	-5
20	East Madhya Pradesh	34	84	-60	307	436	-30
21	Gujarat Region	48	92	-48	486	445	9
22	Saurashtra & Kutch	3	51	-94	340	266	28
23	Konkan & Goa	77	249	-69	1247	1475	-15
24	Madhya Maharashtra	26	61	-57	311	333	-7
25	Marathwada	22	50	-56	211	275	-23
26	Vidarbha	26	74	-65	296	402	-26
27	Coastal Andhra Pradesh	25	39	-36	229	227	1
28	Telangana	27	61	-56	265	296	-10
29	Raylaseema	52	21	148	139	116	20
30	Tamil Nadu	44	17	159	97	103	-6
31	Coastal Karnataka	128	256	-50	1851	1783	4
32	North Interior Karnataka	28	29	-3	193	175	10
33	South Interior Karnataka	48	57	-16	346	327	6
34	Kerala	89	173	-49	1163	1265	-8
35	Lakshadweep	117	67	75	651	523	24

		Excess rains (>20% of normal)			
		Normal rains (+19% to -19% of normal)			
		Deficient rains (-20% to -59% of normal)			
		Little or no rains (<60% of normal)			

WZ #	Name of Weather Zone	Rice	Peanut	Share of Kharif Area			Cotton
				Corn	Sorghum	Millet	
-	-						
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam & Meghalaya	6	0	1	0	0	0
4	Nagaland & Manipur	1	0	1	0	0	0
5	Sub Himalayan West Bengal	3	0	0	0	0	0
6	Gangetic West Bengal	10	0	0	0	0	0
7	Orissa	11	2	3	0	0	0
8	Bihar Plateau	2	0	2	0	0	0
9	Bihar Plain	11	0	10	0	0	0
10	East Uttar Pradesh	9	3	10	5	2	0
11	West Uttar Pradesh	5	2	10	1	5	0
12	Hills of West Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	0	0	0
13	Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi	1	0	1	1	7	7
14	Punjab	4	1	4	0	0	9
15	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	5	0	0	0
16	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	5	0	0	0
17	West Rajasthan	0	0	1	0	19	7
18	East Rajasthan	0	2	14	10	29	0
19	West Madhya Pradesh	2	4	10	17	1	7
20	East Madhya Pradesh	10	0	5	5	0	0
21	Gujarat Region	1	3	6	2	7	13
22	Saurashtra & Kutch	0	29	0	3	6	3
23	Konkan & Goa	1	0	0	0	0	0
24	Madhya Maharashtra	1	7	2	21	16	0
25	Marathwada	0	1	0	8	0	10
26	Vidarbha	2	2	0	3	0	26
27	Coastal Andhra Pradesh	5	2	0	1	1	6
28	Telangana	2	2	5	6	1	2
29	Raylaseema	1	15	0	2	1	2
30	Tamil Nadu	6	13	1	7	2	4
31	Coastal Karnataka	1	0	0	0	0	0
32	North Interior Karnataka	1	8	3	7	4	4
33	South Interior Karnataka	1	3	1	1	0	3
34	Kerala	2	0	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0

