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2010 Monsoon Report 4

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

The monsoon situation continued to improve over the entire country except for north east India where rains continue to remain deficient. The Agriculture Ministry's progressive planting report shows that planting has been well ahead of last year for all crops with total planting through August 5, 2010 at more than 8 percent higher compared to last year.

General Information:**Monsoon Performance:**

There has been a strong resurgence in the monsoon activity since the third week of July, excepting northeast India. The monsoon remained active during the week ending August 4, 2010, but with reduced intensity compared to the previous week. All India rainfall during the week was 16 percent above average with 26 of the 36 weather subdivisions receiving normal and above normal rainfall for second consecutive week (see attachment figure 1). Monsoon was very active in Gujarat, most of Rajasthan, central and peninsular India. However, rainfall in the north eastern states of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and eastern U.P. was significantly below normal during the week.

Although cumulative seasonal rainfall since beginning June through August 4, 2010 has been 2 percent below the long run average, rainfall has been normal and above normal in 31 of the 36 weather subdivisions accounting for nearly 85 percent of the country^[1] (see attachment figure 2). However, most of northeast India has received significantly below normal rains and some pockets are facing moisture stress conditions.

Table 1: Region wise Rainfall in June 1 – Aug 4

(Percent of Long Period Average)

Region	Rainfall Received as % of LPA
All India	98%
Northwest India	101%
Central India	104%
Northeast India	79%
South Peninsula	114%

The Indian Metrological Department (IMD) forecasts fairly widespread rainfall in northeast and east India during the next two weeks. Scattered rainfall is forecast in the remaining parts of the country. The IMD forecasts normal rainfall for the second half of the monsoon season (August-September), with the rainfall likely to be 107 percent of the long run average.

Progress of Planting:

The Agriculture Ministry's latest progressive planting report for the week ending August 5, 2010 shows that total planting and planting of most kharif crops is well ahead of last two years. Planting of rice is ahead of last year, but slightly behind 2008 on lower planting in northeast India due to insufficient rains. With the window of opportunity for planting of rice almost over, most farmers may shift to short duration less water intensive crops like pulses and coarse cereals.

Table 2: Progressive Planting of Major Kharif crops as on 5th August, 2010

(Area in Million hectares)

Crop	Area on 5 th August , 2010	Area on 5 th August, 2009	Area on 8 th August, 2008
Rice	24.48	22.58	25.10
Coarse cereals	18.14	16.60	16.44
Oilseeds	15.32	15.08	15.57
Pulses	8.84	7.65	7.84
Sugarcane	4.74	4.18	4.41
Cotton	103.34	9.46	8.08
All Crops	82.60	76.24	78.18

Sufficient rains in July have supported timely planting in most parts of the country, which should improve the yield prospects for the kharif crops. Adequate and well- distributed rains during second half of monsoon (August-September) is a pre-condition to achieve good harvest for the kharif crops.

^[1] Last year only 11 of the 36 weather subdivisions received normal or above normal rainfall.