

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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2011 Monsoon Report 1

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

The southwest monsoon arrived at the southern tip of India on May 29th, almost 3 days ahead of the normal schedule of June 1st. Rains are progressing normally, except for a slow advance over Bay of Bengal. On April 19, 2011, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) had forecast a normal monsoon for this year.

General Information:

Monsoon Progress

The southwest monsoon, critical for India's agricultural production, has set in over Kerala on May 29, 2011, almost 3 days ahead of the normal onset of June 1st (*Figure 1*). Monsoon coverage has been good over Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, the Bay of Bengal and parts of India's northeastern states. Conditions are favorable for further progress over Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The monsoon is advancing slowly over Bay of Bengal to the eastern part of country, but rains are likely to catch up according to schedule. India's agricultural production is particularly dependent on the spatial and temporal distribution of the monsoon during the June-September period.

Performance

For the week starting May 26, 2011 through June 1, 2011, monsoon rainfall was 12 percent above normal, with normal to excess rains in 22 weather subdivisions (*Figure 2*). Rain was below normal in central and western India, which could result in some delays in *kharif* crop planting, particularly for rain fed crops like soybeans, peanuts, cotton, coarse grains and pulses. With good rain performance over southern India and the expectation of normal rain in north Indian states, rice paddy production should enjoy favorable conditions for the ensuing *kharif* season.

Forecast

On April 19, 2011, the IMD released its long-range forecast of the monsoon ([PIB, Monsoon 2011](#)), which predicts a normal monsoon (i.e. 96-104 percent of Long Period Average (LPA)). The probability of deficient (i.e. below 90 percent of LPA) or excess (above 110 percent of LPA) rainfall this season appears to be quite low. Monsoon season rainfall is currently expected to be 98 percent of the LPA with a model error of +/- 5 percent. The long term LPA average for the period 1951 to 2000 is 89 cm.