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Monsoon 2012 Wrap up Report

Report Categories:
Agricultural Situation
Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security
Grain and Feed
Cotton and Products
Oilseeds and Products
Sugar

Approved By:
David Leishman

Prepared By:
Amit Aradhey

Report Highlights:
According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the 2012 Indian Monsoon (June-September) was 92 percent of the normal monsoon average rainfall. Dry weather in June and July delayed *kharif* crop planting, but above average rainfall through September helped soil moisture to recover in the major agricultural regions of the country. Northern-central, western and south western regions were an exception as they ended with an average 70 percent of normal rainfall. As a result, *kharif* (fall and early winter harvest) crop planting fell 7 percent to 100 million hectares. Current weather conditions appear favorable for planting of rapeseed, mustard, wheat, corn, safflower and sunflower crops.

General Information:

Below-Normal Monsoon in 2012

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the 2012 Indian Monsoon (June-September) was below-normal (92 percent of Long Period Average, LPA). Rain fall reached the southern tip of Kerala on June 5th, and by July 11th covered the entire country, nearly 4 days ahead of schedule. Rainfall retreated from northwestern India almost three weeks behind schedule (Figure 1).

June and July were the driest months of this season, as rains were respectively 28 percent and 13 percent below-normal. The first half of the monsoon season coincided with the peak *kharif* crop planting period, triggering fears that insufficient rain could trigger a drought and possible food grain crisis. With the rainfall recovery in August and September (101 percent and 113 percent of normal respectively) soil moisture improved sufficiently in the major agricultural regions of the country. By end of September 2012, the cumulative rainfall deficit narrowed to 7 percent (Figure2).
However, in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, and in Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura (NMMT) rainfall remained well below last year levels. Only 24 subdivisions out of 36 meteorological subdivisions of the country received normal to above-normal rainfall, compared to 33 subdivisions last year (Figure 3).

Throughout the country, overall rainfall remained below average [1] (Table 2).

At the same time, there were incidents of intermittent floods and landslides as heavy monsoon rains descended on Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Assam.

Kharif Crop Planting Down 7 Percent at 100 Million Hectares

According to the Government of India Ministry of Agriculture's first advance estimate for 2012/13, *kharif* crops have been planted on 100 million hectares, a decrease of 7 percent compared to the previous year. However, *kharif* planting of rice, corn, soybean, cotton and sugarcane was higher than normal, as good financial returns encouraged farmers to bring additional area under production (Table 1).

Weather conditions though the second week of October 2012 appear favorable for a good harvest of green gram, cluster bean and pearl millet in Gujarat, peanut and red gram in Karnataka, corn and rice in Bihar, as well as early maturing varieties of rice and cotton in Haryana. However, the accumulated soil moisture from recent rains could delay the harvest of standing crops, particularly of soybean, millet and rice planted in central and eastern Maharashtra.

The late monsoon rains has helped provide soil moisture to facilitate a timely planting of *rabi* (winter) crops. Planting conditions appear favorable for rapeseed, mustard, wheat, corn, safflower and sunflower crops. Additionally, the availability of water in major reservoirs has improved and will likely also facilitate *rabi* planting in the northern, central, northeastern and northwestern regions of India

[2]. Current water levels across the 84 major reservoirs [3] of the country are13 percent below last year, but 5 percent above the historical average.

Table1: India. Kharif Crop Planting Area 2012, In Million Hectares

Crop Name	Normal area for *kharif* season	First advance estimate 2012/13	Fourth advance estimate 2011/12
Rice	39.11	39.16	40.06
Corn	7.06	7.19	7.38
Coarse Cereals	21.85	17.81	20.67
Total Pulses	10.97	9.52	11.34
Soybean	9.21	10.58	10.17
Peanut	4.99	3.78	4.29
Total oilseeds	17.88	17.50	18.49
Cotton	9.86	11.61	12.17
Sugarcane	4.73	5.10	5.08
Total Crops	**104.40**	**100.70**	**107.81**

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, GOI
First advance estimate for crop season (July-June) 2012/13 as on September 24, 2012
Link: http://agricoop.nic.in/ncfcweather/ncfcasSep-28-2012.pdf

Table2. Rainfall Distribution under four broad geographical regions

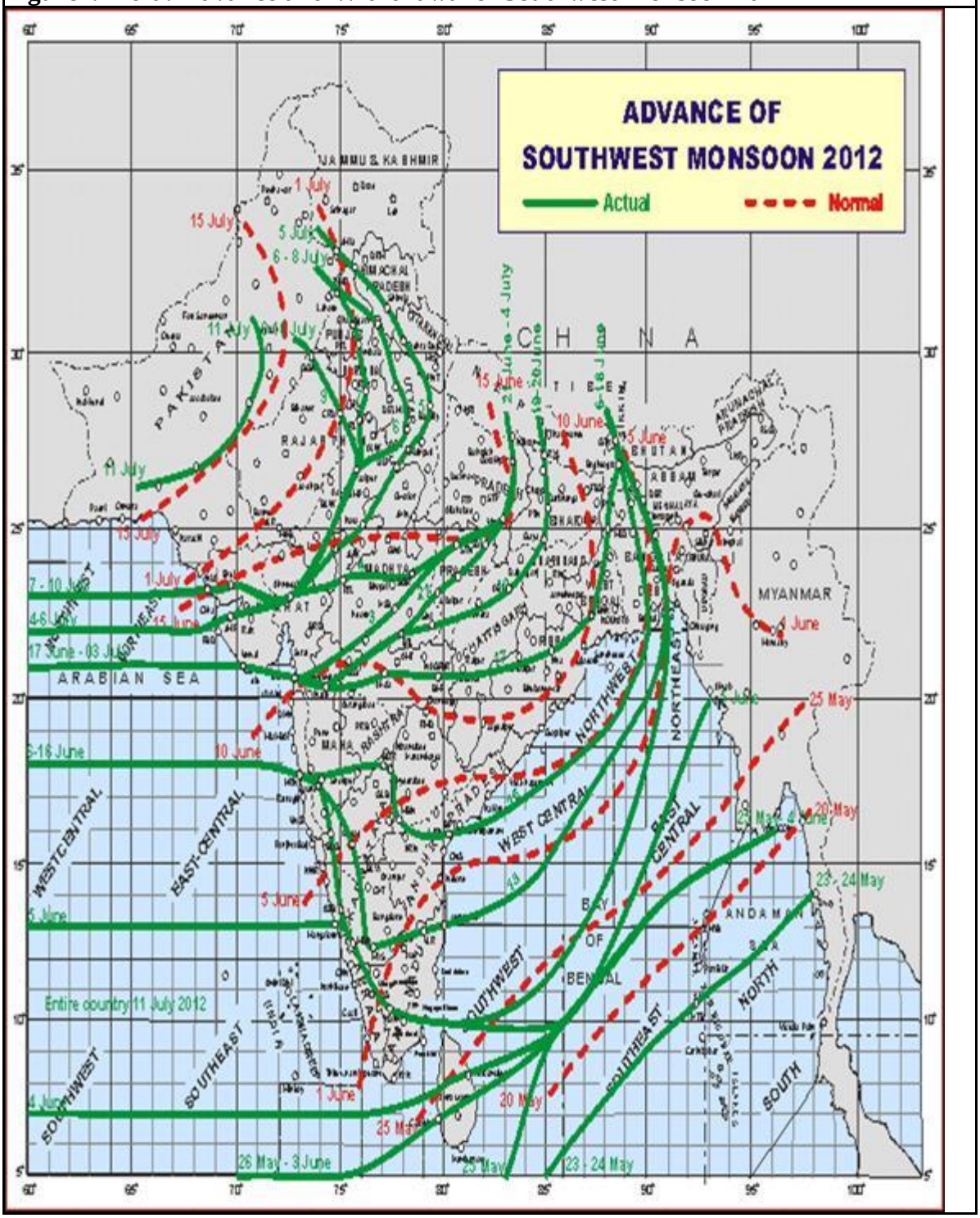
Regions	Actual Rainfall (mm)	Normal Rainfall (mm)	Percent departure from LPA
All India	819.5	886.9	-8.0
Northwest India	569.3	615.0	-7.0
Central India	934.6	974.2	-4.0
South Peninsula	644.0	715.7	-10.0
East and Northeast India	1275.3	1437.8	-11.0

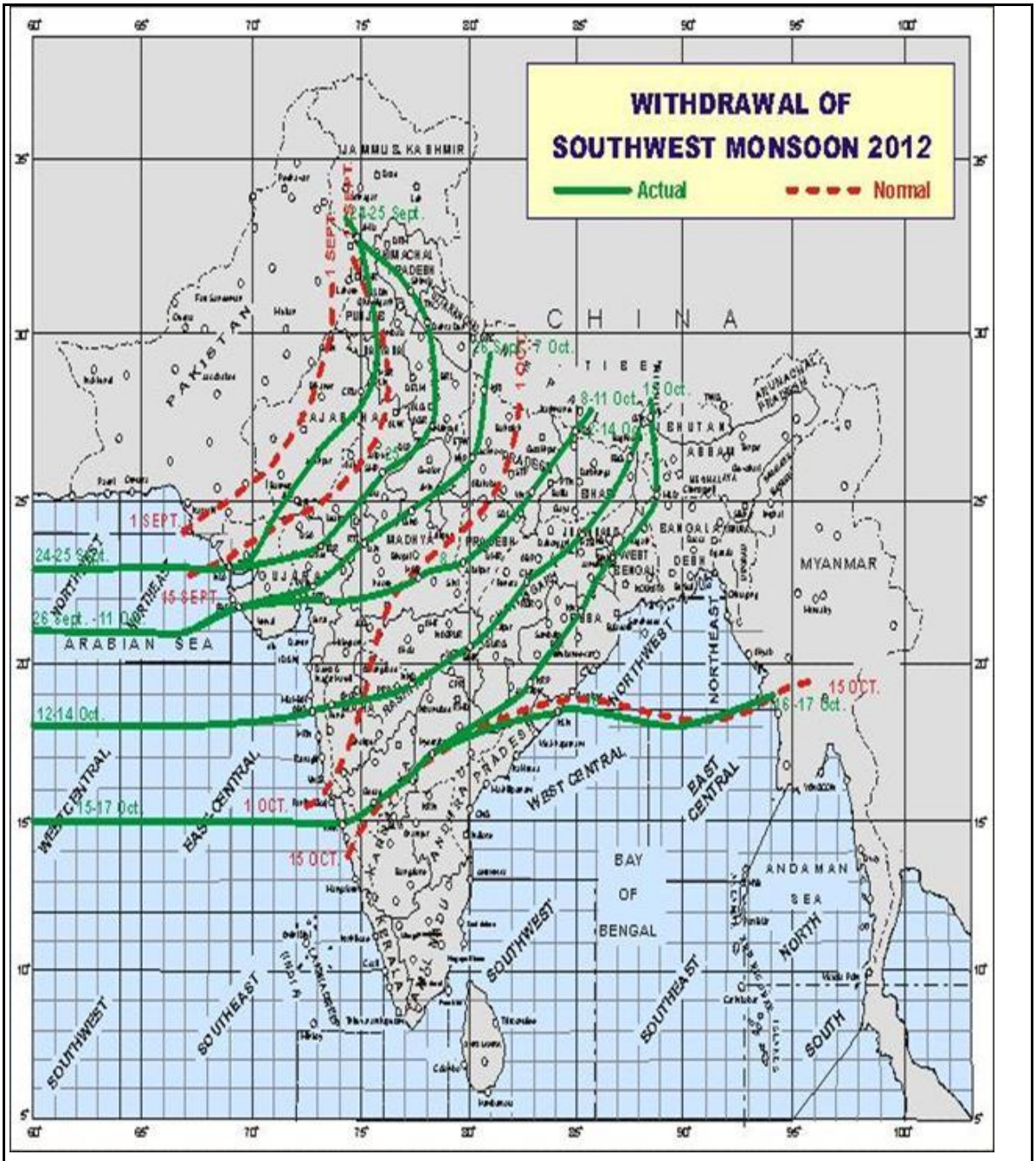
Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI
Seasonal rainfall from June 1st to September 30th.
Link: http://agricoop.nic.in/ncfcweather/ncfcasOct-05-2012.pdf

[1] http://www.imdpune.gov.in/mons_monitor/homo.gif
[2] Major States reporting lower than normal storage are Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
[3] According to the Central Water Commission, the current live storage in these reservoirs as on 4th October, 2012 was 115.01 BCM as against 132.64BCM on 10.4.2011(last year) and 109.31 BCM of normal storage (average storage of the last

10 years).

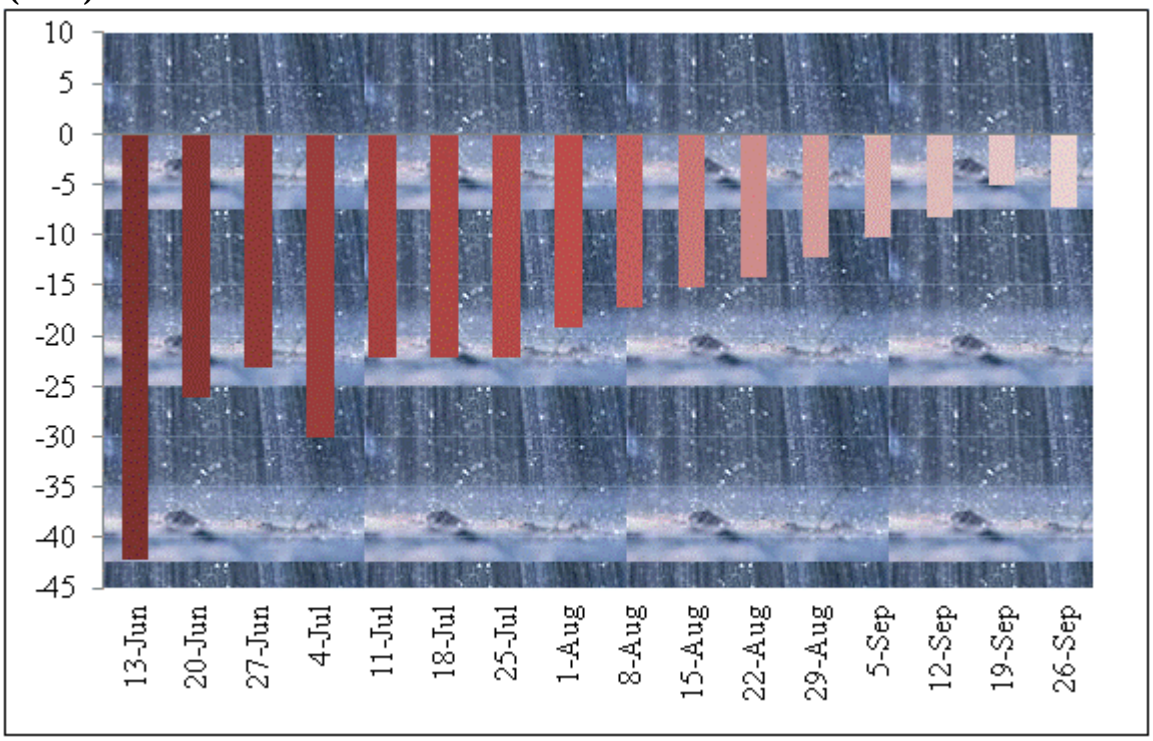
Figure1. India: Advance and Withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon 2012





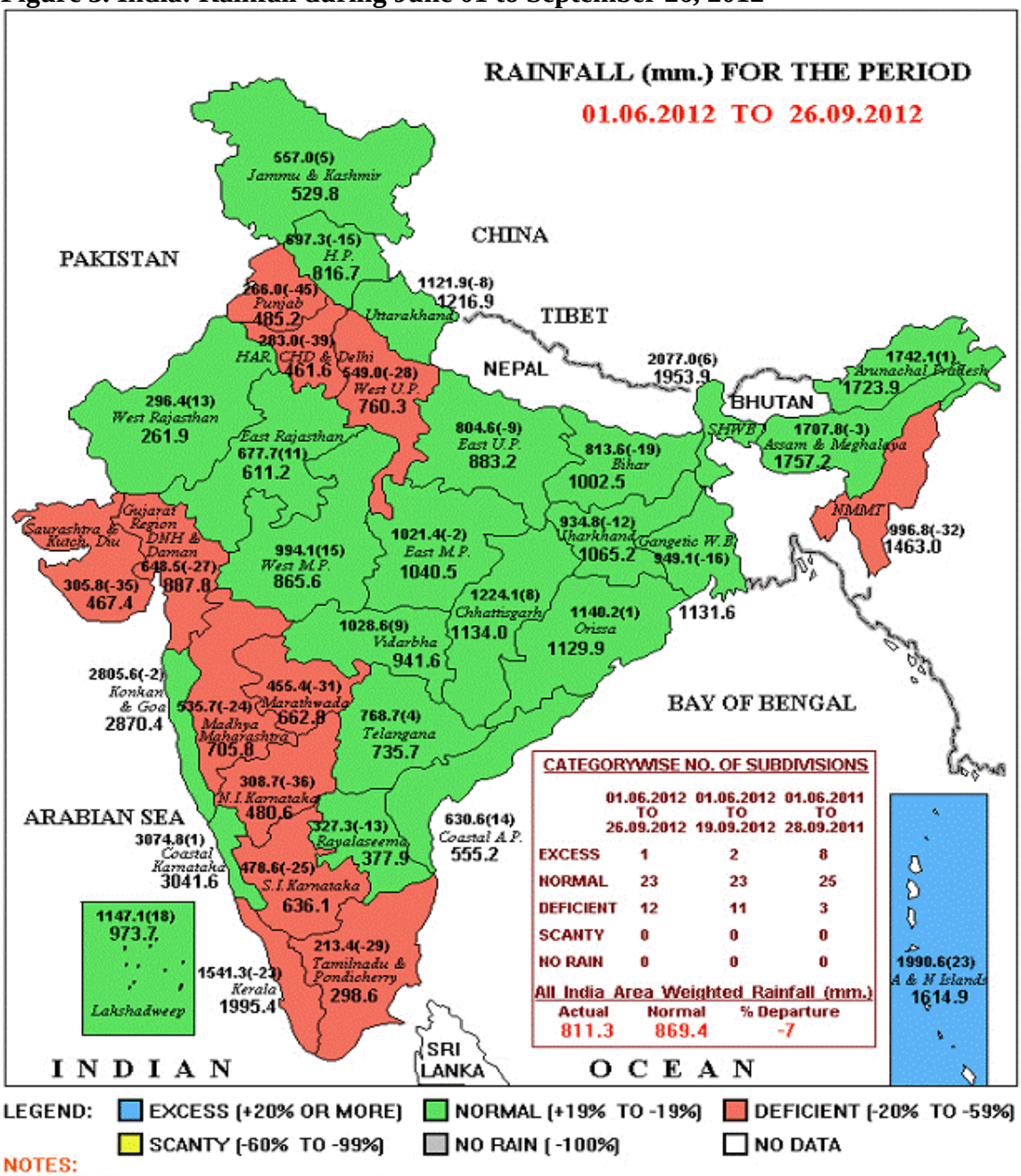
Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

Figure 2. India: Week to Week Seasonal Rainfall Deviation (%) from Long Period Average (2012)



Source: IMD, GOI

Figure 3. India: Rainfall during June 01 to September 26, 2012



Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

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