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Monsoon 2014 Wrap up Report

Report Categories:
Agricultural Situation
Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security
Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), precipitation during the 2014 southwest monsoon (June-September) was 12 percent below India's long period average (LPA) of 886.9 mm. As a result, 2014/15 *kharif* season (fall harvested) planted area dropped two percent to 101.9 million hectares. Food-grain production is forecast at 120.27 million metric tons (MMT), a seven-percent decrease from last year. Prevailing weather conditions appear favorable for *rabi* (winter) crops.

General Information:

According to the IMD, the 2014 Indian southwest monsoon was 12 percent below the LPA of 886.9 mm. Monsoonal rains began in southern Kerala on June 6, five days behind the average starting date of June 1. It covered the entire country by July 17, two days behind the average date of July 15 (Figure 1). Throughout the 2014 monsoon, the northwestern, eastern, and northeastern regions received deficit rains (below 90 percent of LPA), while the central and southern regions experienced below-normal rainfall (between 90 to 96 percent of LPA) (Table 1).

June 2014 rainfall levels ranked as the fourth lowest in terms of recorded levels for June rains over the last 114 years and as the second lowest over the most recent 10 year period. As noted below in Figure 2, June precipitation was almost 40 percent below average. Despite abnormally dry conditions in June, the El Niño system began to weaken in early July and monsoonal precipitation became relatively normal thereafter. By the end of September, the cumulative average narrowed to 12 percent below the LPA. 12 sub-divisions received deficit rainfall, to include the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana, all of which are significant in terms of production (Figure 3). However, cumulative rainfall levels were reported at normal and/or above-normal levels in 24 meteorological sub-divisions.

Table1. India: Geographical and Month-wise Rainfall Distribution, unit in millimeter

Geographical Regions	**Actual Rainfall**	**Normal Rainfall** (LPA)	**Rainfall** (% of LPA)
All India	777.5	886.9	88.0
Northwest India	483.1	615.0	79.0
Central India	879.7	974.2	90.0
South Peninsula	665.4	715.7	93.0
East &Northeast India	1267.7	1437.8	88.0
Monthly Rainfall			
June	92.4	163.5	57.0
July	259.0	288.9	90.0
August	261.0	261.0	90.0
September	173.5	173.5	108.0
August + September	434.5	422.1	97.0

Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

Heavy rains, particularly during the first week of September, resulted in severe floods in Jammu and Kashmir and led to significant loss of life and property damage. Paddy, horticultural crops, and corn in Jammu and Kashmir were damaged as a result. Concurrently, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar also experienced isolated flooding in the catchment areas of Nepal. Although losses in value-terms have not been determined, an additional update will be provided as that information becomes available.

According to IMD, the southwest monsoon commenced its withdrawal from northwestern India as of September 23, 2014. On October 17, the southwest monsoon exited the India's southern peninsula. The northeast monsoon set in over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and the adjoining areas of southern Andhra Pradesh and southern Karnataka during third week of October.

2014 *Kharif* Crop Production Estimated Seven Percent below Last Year

Planting for the 2014/15 *kharif* season decreased by two percent from last year, mostly due to an initial delay in onset of the southwest monsoon, particularly over western and west-central India. Other weather factors included hot weather, below-normal rainfall, and low water levels in aquifers and major reservoirs. Except for rice and cotton, acreage for other *kharif* crops were down from last year (Table 2).

Kharif planting through the second week of July only covered approximately 25 million hectares, which was less than half of area covered last year, and a third of area planted a year before that(crop season 2012). However, from mid-July through the first week of August, rainfall and soil moisture improved and farmers increased the pace of planting.

The Government of India's (GOI) first advance estimate for the 2014/15 *kharif* season forecast India's food-grain production at 120.27 MMT. Although this estimate is seven percent below last year, it still remains higher than the most recent five-year average of 112.7 MMT. Out-year production of oilseeds, cotton, and sugarcane are estimated to be lower than current year levels.

In most growing areas, above-normal September rains provided adequate soil moisture for the planting of *rabi* (winter planted/spring harvested) crops. *Rabi* planting conditions thus far have been favorable for rapeseed, mustard, wheat, corn, safflower and sunflower crops.

Table 2. India: *Kharif* Crop Planting and Production Estimates for 2014/15, Area in Million Hectares and Production in MMT

Crop Name	Normal Area*	Area[1] in 2014	Area in 2013	First Advance[2] Estimate 2014/15	Fourth Advance Estimate 2013/14
Rice	39.21	38.06	37.67	88.02	91.69
Coarse Cereals	21.31	18.23	19.60	27.05	31.53
Pulses	11.07	10.23	10.90	05.20	06.02
Oilseeds[3]	18.22	17.84	19.49	19.66	22.40
Cotton	10.47	12.65	11.43	34.63	36.59
Sugarcane	04.71	04.87	05.03	342.78	350.02
Total	104.99	101.88	104.12	517.34	538.25

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, GOI

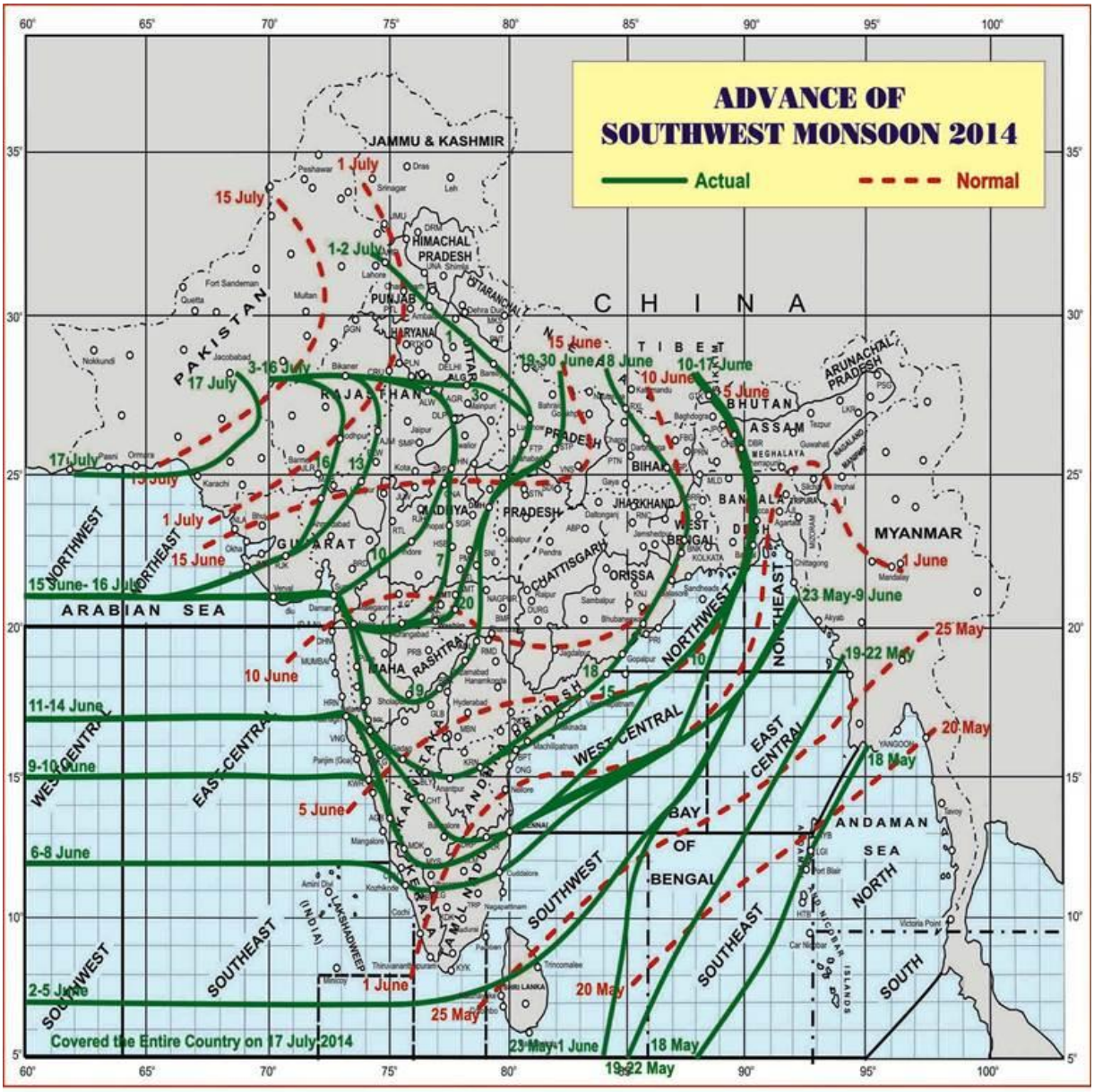
[1:] PIB Press Release

[2]: First Advance Estimate for crop season (July-June)

[3]:Includes minor oilseeds such as Niger, Sesamum and Safflower

.*: Normal area is average of last five years

Figure 1. India: Advance of Southwest Monsoon 2014



Source: IMD, GOI

Figure 2. India: Weekly Progress of Monsoon Rainfall (cumulative, based on LPA)

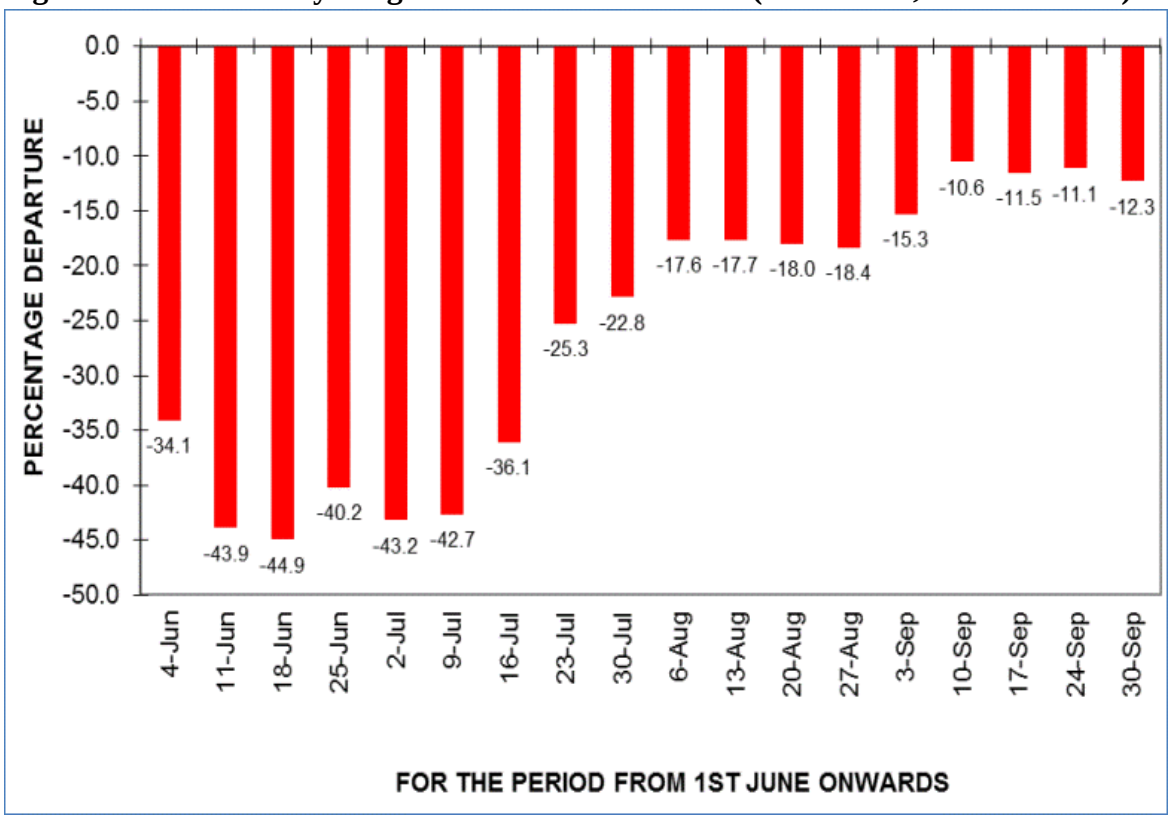
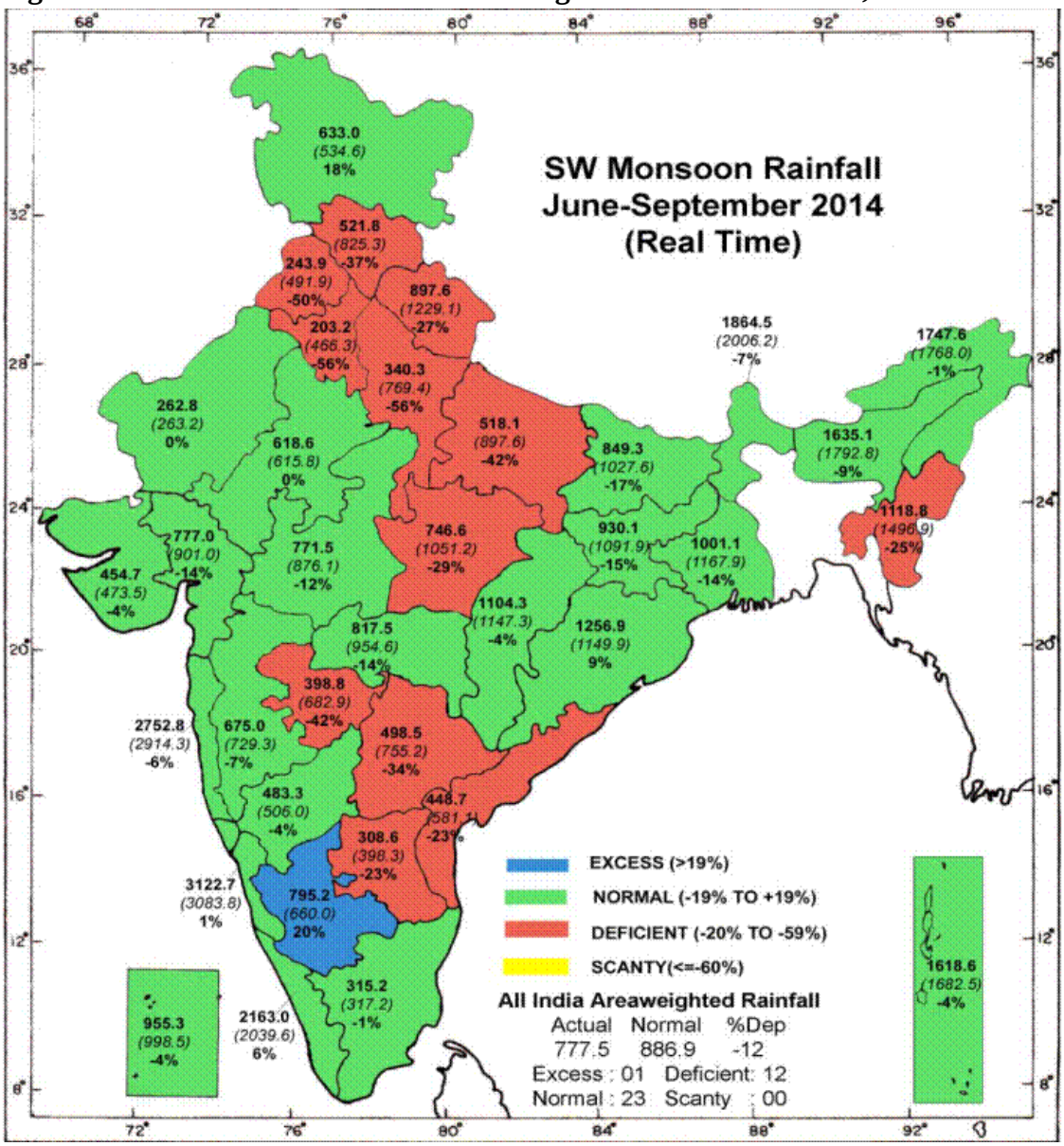
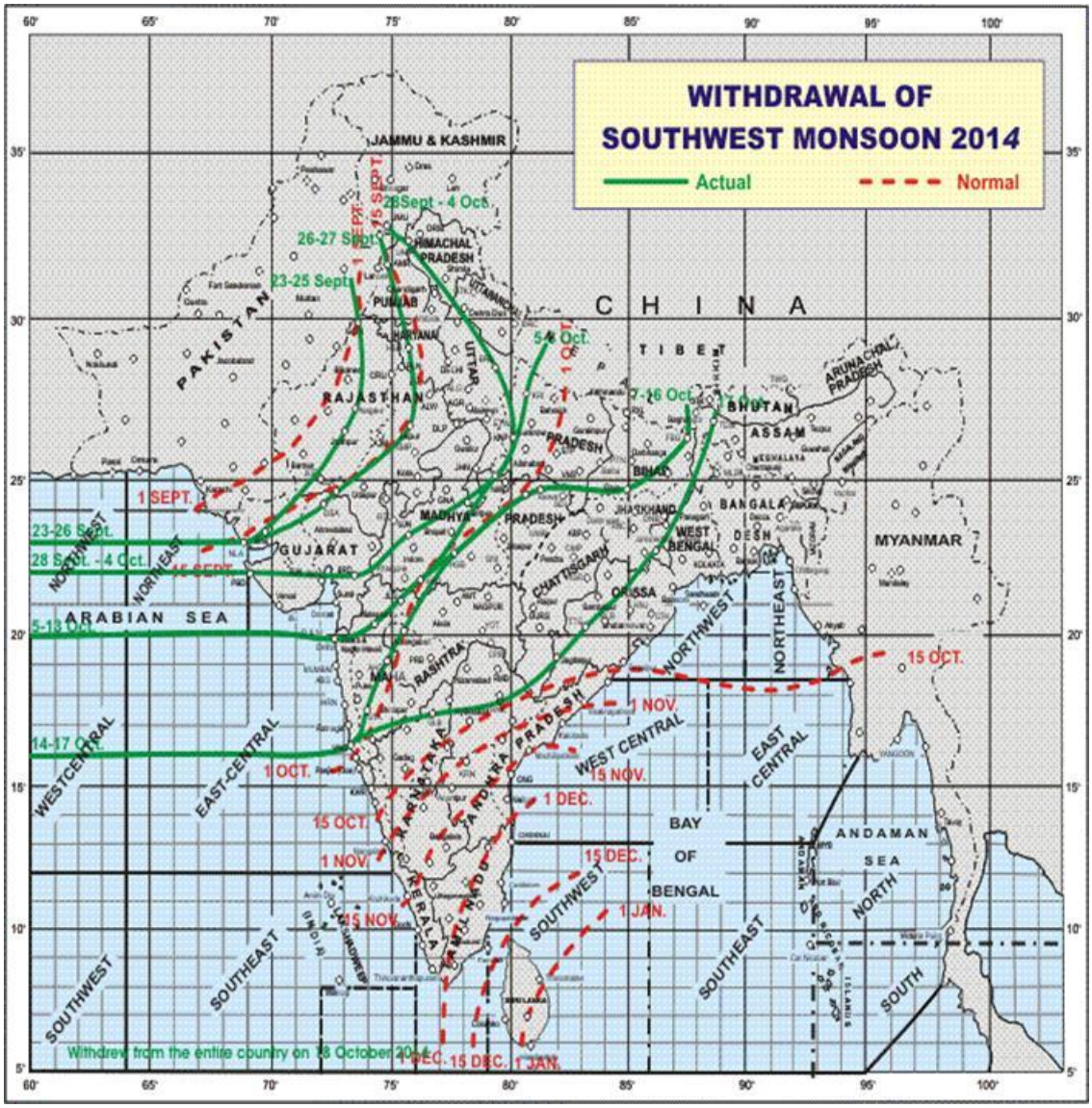


Figure 3. India: Cumulative Rainfall during Monsoon Season 2014, unit in mm



Source: IMD, GOI

Figure 4. India: Withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon 2014



Source: IMD, GOI