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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### 2010 Monsoon Report

#### 3

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

While overall rain spread has been patchy, with some parts of east and central India and receiving below-normal rainfall, there has been a slight improvement in the monsoon activity during the week ending July 21. Official data, as of July 15, show that progressive planting of most *Kharif* (fall and early harvested) crops has been ahead of last years level. As the window of opportunity for planting of *Kharif* crops closes, good monsoon rains are needed in the next two weeks, particularly in central and east India.

## General Information:

### Monsoon Performance

The rainfall situation improved during the week ending July 21 compared to monsoon activity of the previous week. During the week of July 21, rainfall was normal or above normal in 23 of the 36 weather subdivisions, with the rainfall area weighted average for the country at 17 percent below the long-term average (compared to 24 percent below normal during the previous week). Most of the rainfall was confined to peninsular and north India, with central and eastern regions receiving below normal rainfall (see Figure 1). Cumulative rainfall during the period June 1 to July 21 was normal or above normal in 26 of the 36 weather subdivisions (compared with 23 during the previous week, and 17 during the corresponding period last year). However, the cumulative rainfall deficiency in the agriculturally important Gangetic plain ranges from 14 percent to 51 percent (see Figure 2)

After facing a prolonged dry spell, the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (rice) received very good rains during the week ending July 21. The northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand (rice), and peninsular states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (rice, corn, cotton, peanuts, soy bean) continued to receive good rains during the week. However, the eastern states of West Bengal, Orissa and Jharkhand (rice), M.P. (soy bean, cotton, pulses) received below average rains for the second consecutive week. Rains have also been below normal in Rajasthan (cotton, millet, soybeans) and Gujarat (cotton, peanut, millets) over the last two weeks.

### Progress of Planting

Planting reports from the Ministry of Agriculture shows planting of most *Kharif* crops – rice, coarse cereals (corn, sorghum, millets), oilseeds (peanuts, soybean), cotton and pulses – till mid-July was well ahead of last year level. Comparing the current year planting with planting during the corresponding period in 2008 (a normal monsoon year), reveals that planting of rice has been lagging behind the normal pace, particularly in the Gangetic plains due to the prolonged dry spell. Although official estimates are not yet available, industry sources report that rice planting has improved significantly during the last week due to good rains in U.P. and Bihar.

**Table 1: Progressive Planting of Major *Kharif* crops as on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2010**

Crop	Area as on 15th July, 2010	Area as on 15th July 2009	Area as on 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
Rice	12.48	12.24	14.52
Coarse cereals	10.72	9.52	11.06
Oilseeds	9.67	9.42	10.14
Pulses	4.51	3.82	4.07
Sugarcane	4.74	4.18	4.38
Cotton	8.28	6.88	6.17

Source: Press Information Bureau <http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=63324&kwd=>  
and Gain Report IN9097 – 2009 Monsoon Report (4)

Almost halfway through the monsoon season (June-Sept), the window of opportunity is narrowing for most *Kharif* crops. If the rainfall situation does not improve in the eastern and central region, planting of rice may be adversely impacted as farmers start shifting to less water intensive short duration crops like pulses and coarse grains. Early plantings of peanuts and cotton in Gujarat may also be vulnerable to damage if additional rainfall does not arrive soon. The Indian Metrological Department continues to predict a normal 2010 monsoon with increasing monsoon activity in late-July and August. While there remains some concern over the lack of rains in some regions, the Union Minister of Agriculture expects good agriculture production in the upcoming 2010/11 crop year (July-June).