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**Date:** 8/25/2010

**GAIN Report Number:** IN7076

## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### 2010 Monsoon Report

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**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

Monsoon rainfall activity improved considerably during the week ending August 18 in most of the country except parts of east India. The eastern states of Bihar and Jharkhand have already declared districts as drought-hit. The Ministry of Agriculture reports progressive planting up until August 13, 2010 at more than 10 percent higher than comparable figures last year. However, below normal rains in eastern India will likely impact the overall rice crop.

## General Information:

### Monsoon Performance:

After a week-long pause, monsoon rainfall activity improved in the week ending August 18, 2010 with 25 of the 36 weather subdivision reporting normal and above normal rainfall (see attachment figure 1). Monsoon rains were very active in northwestern and most of peninsular India except Gujarat. However, the central and eastern regions continued to face deficient rains, mainly in the states of U.P., Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal – all major rice producing states.

Cumulative seasonal rainfall beginning June through August 18, 2010 was 5 percent below the long run average. However, rainfall has been normal and above normal in 29 of the 36 weather subdivisions accounting for nearly 75 percent of the country (see attachment figure 2). Further, the states of U.P., Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya have received significantly below-normal rains and thus face moisture stress conditions. The states of Bihar and Jharkhand have already been declared drought affected, and some additional Eastern states may declare select pockets as drought affected soon.

### Progress of Planting:

The Agriculture Ministry's latest progressive planting report for the week ending August 13, 2010 shows that total planting of most kharif crops is well ahead of the last two years during similar time period. However, overall planting of rice is slightly behind 2008 on lower plantings in northeast and east India due to insufficient rains.

**Table 2: Progressive Planting of Major *Kharif* crops as on August 13, 2010**

(Area in Million hectares)

Crop	Area as on August 13, 2010	Area as on August 13, 2009	Area as on August 13, 2008
Rice	27.41	25.12	28.21
Coarse cereals	19.36	17.42	17.11
Oilseeds	15.82	15.28	16.39
Pulses	10.32	8.59	8.98
Sugarcane	4.77	4.18	4.41
Cotton	10.50	9.50	8.59

Source: National Crop Forecasting centre, Ministry of Agriculture

<http://agricoop.nic.in/ncfcweather/ncfcasAug-13-2010.pdf>

With the window of opportunity for planting of rice almost over, farmers in north east and east India may shift to short-duration, less water intensive crops like pulses and coarse cereals. There is a likely to be a decline in production of rice from the region due to lower planted area and smaller yields due to moisture stress. However, a production decline in the Eastern region is likely to be partially offset by improved prospects in other parts of the country.

Plenty of rain in July through the first quarter of August in major part of the country have supported timely planting and improved yield prospects for most of the other kharif crops. These rains have also helped replenish water levels in major reservoirs and ground water recharge, which should help planting of *rabi* (winter season) crops like wheat, *rabi* rice, rapeseed and pulses in the coming fall. However, adequate and well- distributed rains during second half of August and September) are required to achieve good harvests for both the *kharif* and *rabi* crops.