

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 8/19/2011

GAIN Report Number: IN1177

India

Post: New Delhi

2011 Monsoon Report 4

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

For the week ending August 10th, 2011, rainfall was 14 percent above the Long Period Average (LPA). India as a whole received sufficient rains, except for Orissa and Tamil Nadu, where monsoon rain continues to elude for the second consecutive week. Kharif crops have been sown on 75.2 million hectares, which is marginally above last year's level. With the exception of rice, soybean, cotton, sugarcane and minor oilseed crops, planting is lagging behind last year's pace. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, rainfall during the second half of the monsoon season is likely to be 90 percent of LPA. Observers believe that continued well distributed rains during second half of the monsoon are required to achieve normal harvest for most crops.

General Information:

Monsoon Progress:

Rainfall during the week ending August 10th, 2011, showed a significant improvement with 22 out of 36 weather subdivisions receiving normal or above average rains (Figure 1). The total weighted all India rainfall during the week was 14 percent above the long period average (LPA), compared to rainfall deficit of 22 percent a week ago. After a dry spell last week, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Eastern Gujarat, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, South Interior Karnataka and North Eastern states received excellent rains, except for Odisha and Tamil Nadu, where monsoon rain continues to elude for second consecutive week. Good monsoon rains in the last few weeks over Western Gujarat, Western Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra (except Vidarbha) is likely to compensate for the current rain deficit over these regions.

Data from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) indicate that the cumulative weighted all India rainfall was 4 percent below the LPA at 522.1 mm for the period June 1 to August 10, 2011 (Figure 2). Rainfall has been normal and above average in 29 out of 36 meteorological subdivisions, compared to 26 subdivisions a week ago. Orissa, Eastern Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura (NMMT), received insufficient rains. The major crops grown in these regions are paddy, cotton, peanuts, maize, sugarcane, pigeon pea, pearl millet, sorghum, and cluster bean.

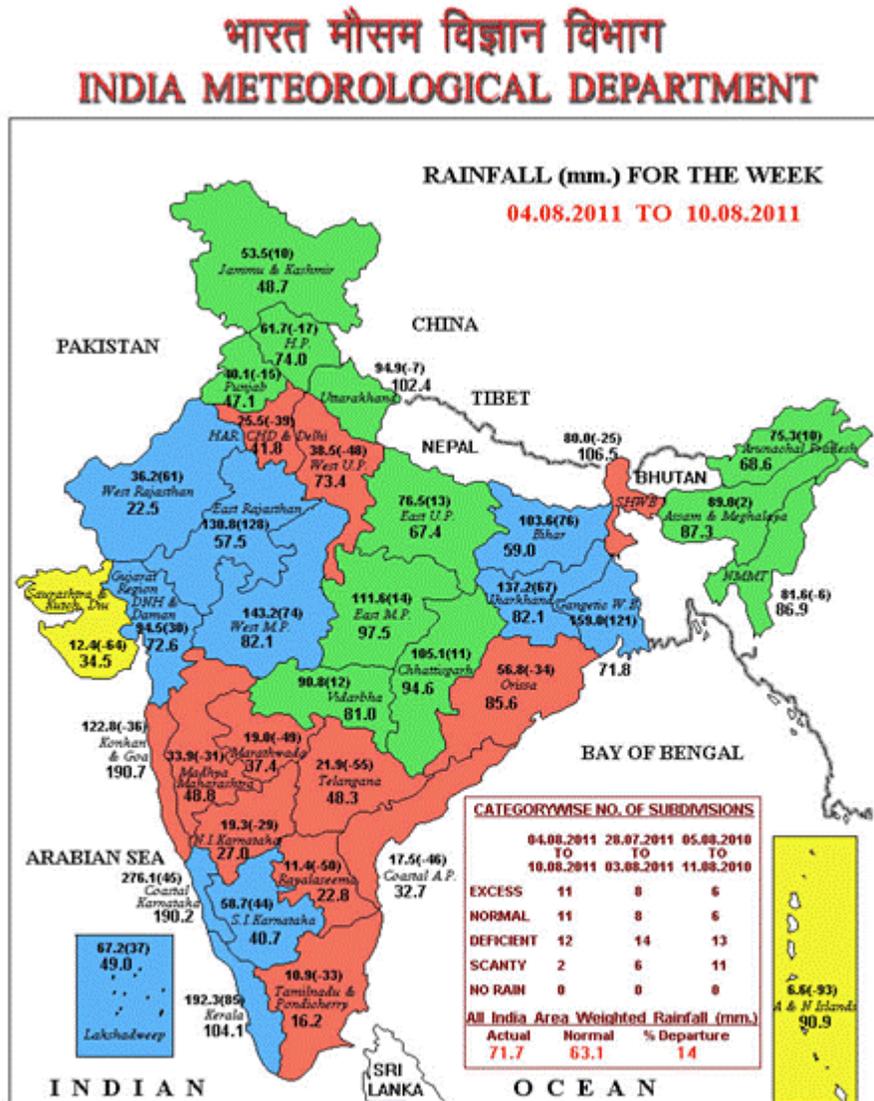
Dull outlook for monsoon (August through September):

According to the IMD ([IMD's forecast for Aug-Sept](#)), rainfall during second half of the monsoon season is likely to be 90 percent of Long Period Average (LPA) except for Northeast India where rains are likely to be less than the lower limit of the IMD June forecast. Observers believe that the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall during first two months of the monsoon has been satisfactory. However, continued well distributed rains during second half of the monsoon is required to facilitate crop growth, achieve normal harvest for most crops.

Progress of planting:

According to the latest planting progress report ([Weather Watch Report](#)), kharif crops have been sown on 75.2 million hectares (equal to 72 percent of normal area under kharif crops) as compared to the 75 million hectares during the same period last year. With the exception of rice, soybean, cotton, sugarcane and minor oilseed crops, planting for most crops is lagging behind last year's pace. Insufficient rains during the past week have extended planting operations. Recent rains should benefit standing crops and encourage additional planting of crops such as paddy, cotton and pulses. However, it is still not yet clear if the late planting will have an impact on yields.

Figure 1: Rainfall during the period starting August 04 to August 10, 2011

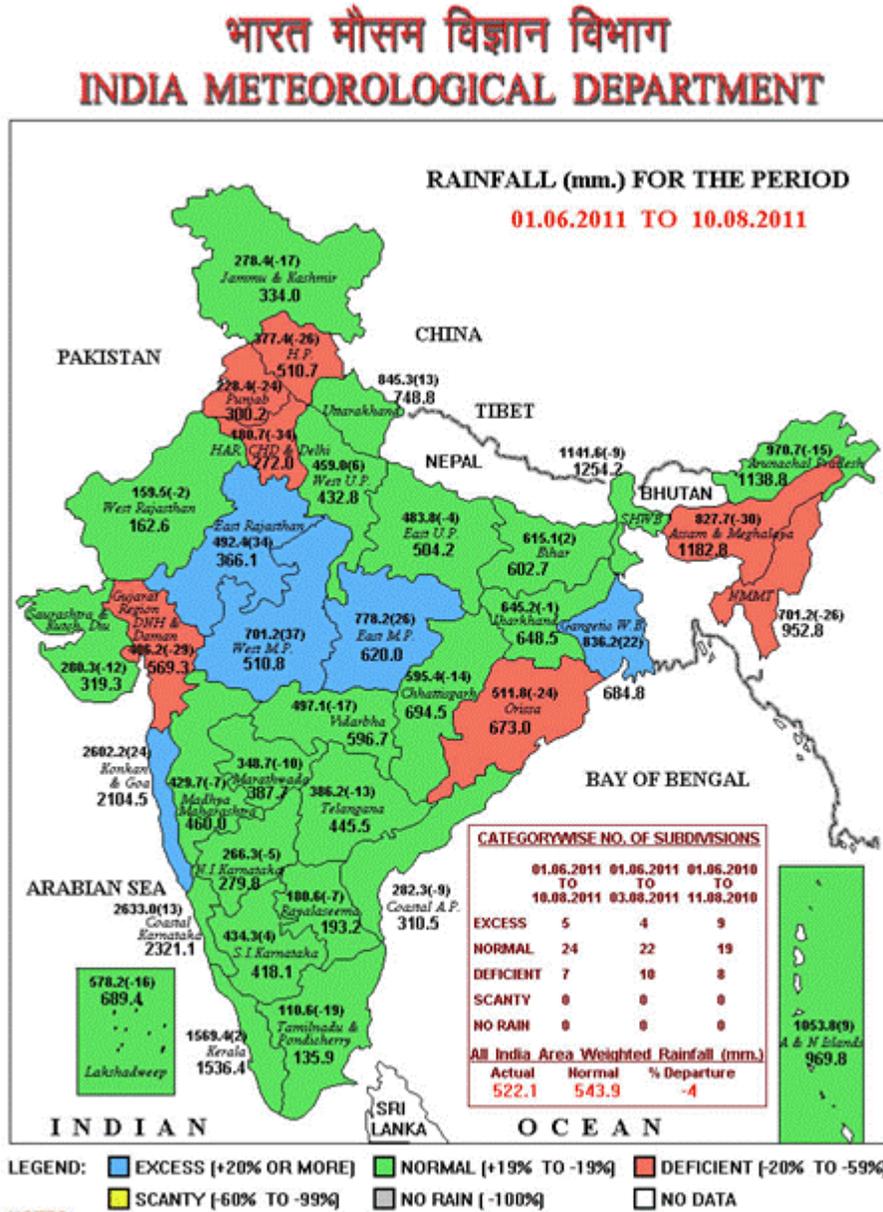


LEGEND: ■ EXCESS (+20% OR MORE) ■ NORMAL (+19% TO -19%) ■ DEFICIENT (-20% TO -59%)
■ SCANTY (-60% TO -99%) ■ NO RAIN [-100%] ■ NO DATA

NOTES:
 [a] Rainfall figures are based on operational data.
 [b] Small figures indicate actual rainfall (mm.), while bold figures indicate Normal rainfall (mm.)
 Percentage Departures of Rainfall are shown in Brackets.

Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

Figure 2: Rainfall during the period starting June 1 to August 10, 2011



Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI