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Monsoon Report (1)

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

The southwest monsoon arrived at the southern tip of India on May 23, 2009, a week ahead of the normal date and advanced to cover north eastern India and parts of peninsular India by June 7. Since then, the monsoon progress has stalled, which is a cause of concern. A further significant delay in monsoon advancement would negatively impact planting of most rain-fed *khari* (fall and early winter harvested) crops, which include rice, coarse grains, soybeans, peanut, cotton, sugarcane, and pulses.

General Information:

Monsoon Progress

The southwest monsoon arrived at the southern tip of India on May 23, 2009, a week ahead of the normal date. Subsequent to the monsoon onset over Kerala, a cyclonic storm (AILA) formed in the Bay of Bengal, which resulted in a quick advance of monsoon over the northeastern states and West Bengal. After a hiatus of about one week, the monsoon further

advanced along the west coast and covered some parts of peninsular India by June 7. Since then, there has been no further advancement of the monsoon (Figure 1). Under normal conditions, at this point the monsoon should have covered the entire peninsular India, most parts of central, west and eastern India. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, monsoon advancement will be likely only after June 20.

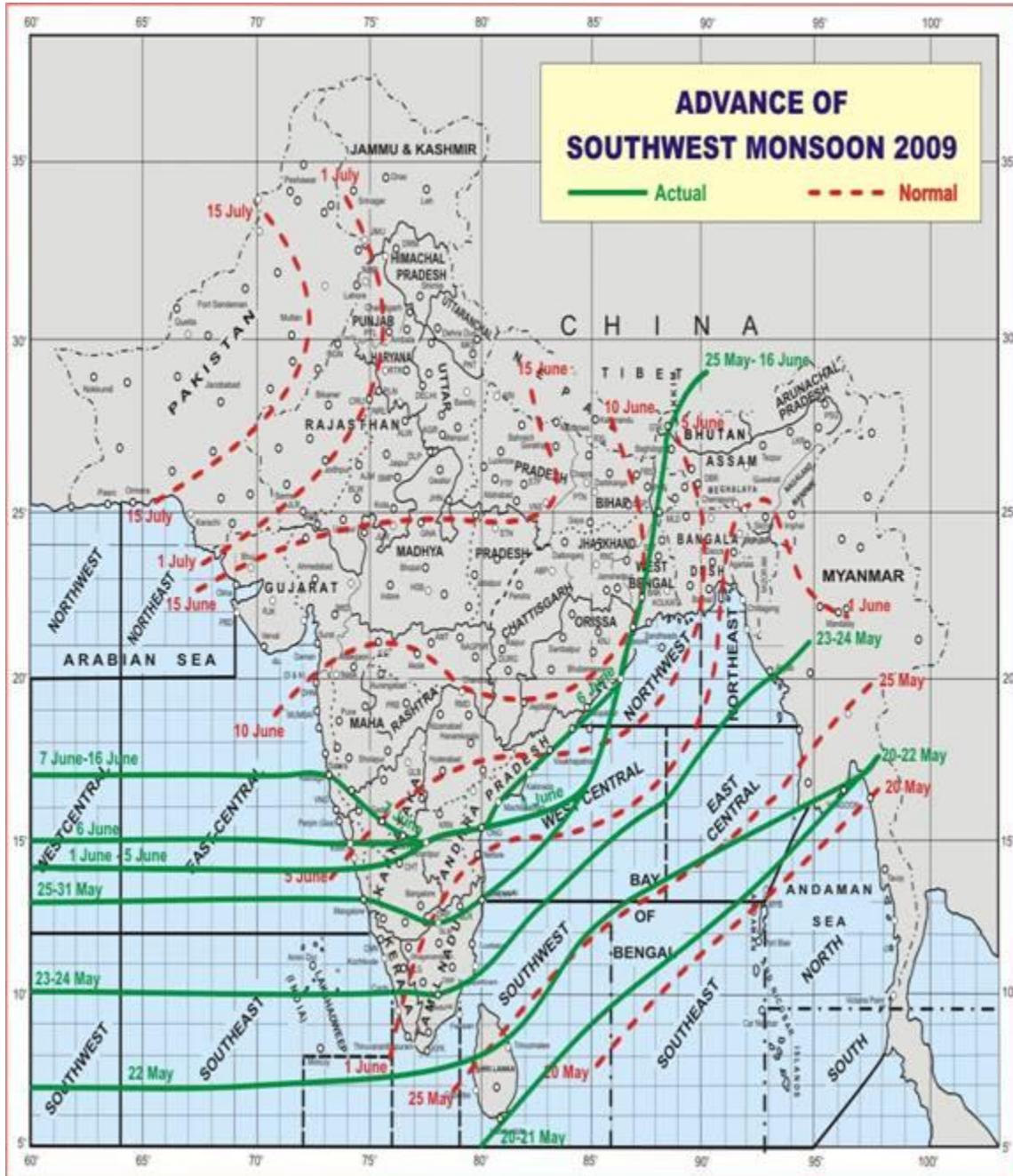
Performance

Cumulative rainfall during June 1 to June 10 was 39 percent below normal with normal or above normal rains occurring in only 9 of the 36 weather subdivisions, mostly in southern India, compared with 30 during the corresponding period of last year. Significantly below normal rains occurred in central and western India, which should result in a delay in the planting of most *kharif* crops, particularly rain fed crops such as rice, soybeans, peanut, cotton, coarse grains, and pulses. Planting will start only after the monsoon firmly establishes itself over major growing states. For most crops, planting could continue through mid-July and in exceptional cases up to late July and early August. According to some experts, the delay in the arrival of monsoon at this point should not be a matter of concern.

Forecast

The Indian Meteorological Department's (IMD) Long Range Forecast update for the 2009 South-West Monsoon Season (June-September) released on April 17 is for the country as a whole cumulative rainfall is likely to be 96 percent of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 890 mm with a model error of ± 5

Figure 1. Monsoon Progress in 2008



Source: Indian Meteorological Department