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India

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Monsoon Report - 5

Report Categories:
Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

As of the week ending July 2, 2014, India's southwest monsoon advanced into areas of northern India, as well as northern Rajasthan and parts of Uttar Pradesh. The monsoon in eastern and west-central India is delayed by over a week, and dry weather continues in these areas. *Kharif* crop planting as of July 5, 2014, has dropped by about 55 percent versus planting levels from the same period in 2013. Rainfall in during the next three weeks will be crucial for rain-fed crops, particularly rice.

General Information:

Monsoon Progress Stalled

According to the Indian Meteorological Department's (IMDs) forecast for the week ending July 2, the southwest monsoon has advanced into areas of northern India, as well as northern Rajasthan and parts of Uttar Pradesh. However, monsoonal precipitation in western and west-central India has been delayed by at least one week and these areas continue to experience conditions (Figure 1). Normally, the southwest monsoon covers the entire country by mid-July. June precipitation was 43 percent below India's long-period average (LPA) of 163.5 mm, as 31 of 36 total meteorological sub-divisions received below-normal rains (Figure 2). According to the IMDs forecast for the week of July 4, the eastern and northeastern states, as well as Kerala, and coastal Karnataka will receive normal to heavy rains while the remaining regions are forecast to receive below-normal levels of monsoonal rains.

***Kharif* Crop Planting Behind Schedule**

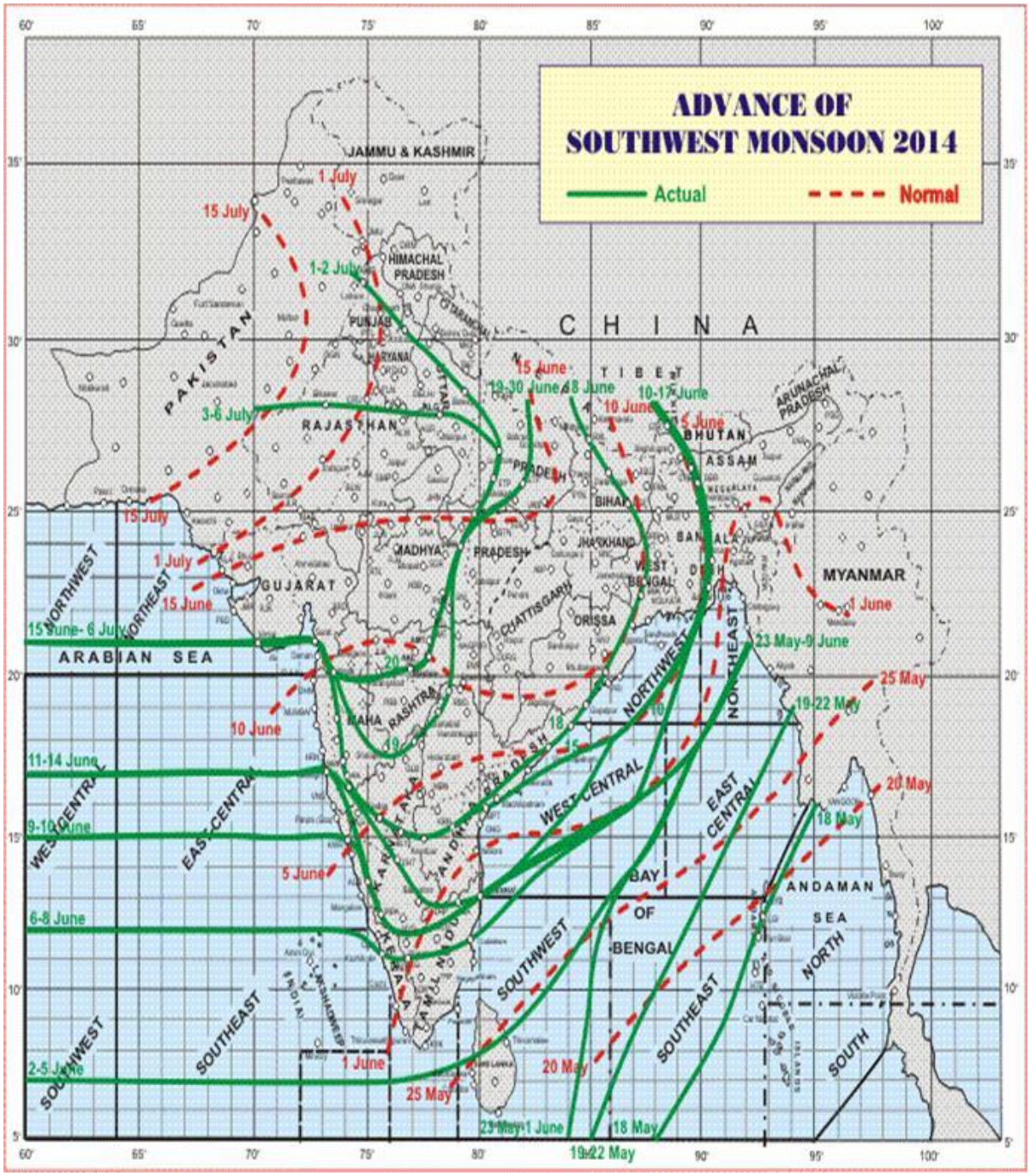
Kharif crop planting as of July 5, 2014, has dropped by about 55 percent from the corresponding period in 2013. Area planted for *kharif* crops is also below what it was in 2012, which was also considered to be a relatively dry year (July-June) (Table 1). *Kharif* planted acres are down due to below-normal rains caused by a delay in of the southwest monsoon over western and west-central India. As a result, paddy transplantation, cotton, and soybean planting are delayed. Rainfall levels throughout the next three weeks are critical will be critical for rain fed crops, particularly rice, which needs to be replanted into wet paddies. Even in irrigated areas, monsoonal rain is vital to boost yields and reduce the production costs.

Table 1. India: All India *Kharif* Crop Planting Progress, in Million Hectares

Crop Name	Area sown in 2014	Area sown in 2013	Area sown in 2012
Rice	4.51	6.91	5.67
Coarse cereals	2.83	6.55	2.30
Pulses	0.75	1.83	0.40
Oilseeds	1.45	11.02	2.65
Cotton	3.54	8.17	4.66
Sugarcane	4.42	4.83	5.00
All crops	**17.50**	39.31	20.68

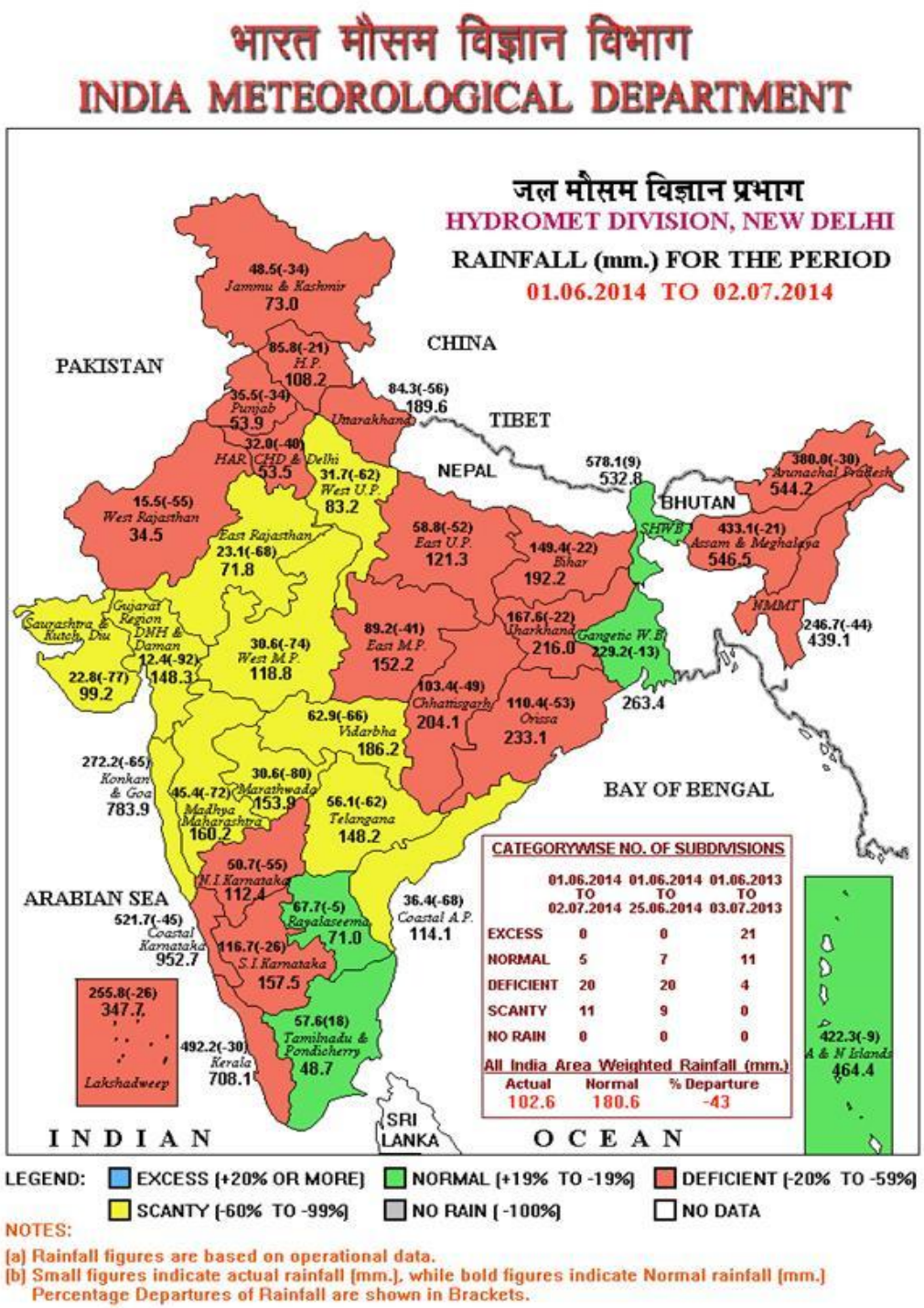
Source: PIB Press Release
Note: Area planted is as of July 5.

Figure 1. India: Progress of Monsoon 2014



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Figure 2. India: Cumulative Monsoon Rains 2014



Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI