

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

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Monsoon Report 3

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Over the past two weeks, Indian monsoon rains have continued to elude central, north and northwest parts of India. Given the uneven rainfall distribution and extended dry conditions, the 2012 Southwest monsoon (June-September) is expected to be below-normal. The *kharif* crop planting stands at 5.2 million hectares, 9 percent below last year levels. Delayed planting is likely to affect yields, lowering the *kharif* crop production forecasts.

General Information:

Monsoon Progress

For second consecutive week, Monsoon rains continue to elude central, north and northwest parts of India (Figure 1). With very limited rainfall, the cumulative rain deficit remains unchanged at 22 percent (Figure 2). Some light to moderate showers over central, west coast and south peninsula are [forecast](#) to help bring some respite by the end of July; however northwest plains remain water-stressed. Given the uneven rainfall distribution and extended dry conditions, the 2012 southwest monsoon (June-September) is likely to be below-normal. This stands in contrast to the India Meteorological Department's second stage forecast (on June 22, 2012) which predicted a normal monsoon rainfall at 96% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with model error of $\pm 4\%$.

Progress of planting

As of July 20, 2012, *kharif* planting covered 5.2 million hectares, down 9 percent compared to last year. While the earlier anticipation of favorable returns encouraged farmers to expand the planted area for sugarcane, the insufficient rainfall in the major growing regions has generally had a negative effect on planted area (Table- 1).

The window of opportunity for planting *kharif* crops is virtually closed. There is still some time for rice planting to recover, but yields will likely be affected, lowering the *kharif* crop production forecasts.

Unless monsoon activity gains some momentum over the next two weeks, India could be facing a drought. Rainfall distribution is especially critical at this time of year to promote crop growth. The states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan have received deficit rains since June, and therefore their situation is particularly concerning for peanut, cotton, millet, soybean, sorghum, and pulse crops.

Table 1. India: All India Crop Progress as on July 20, 2012

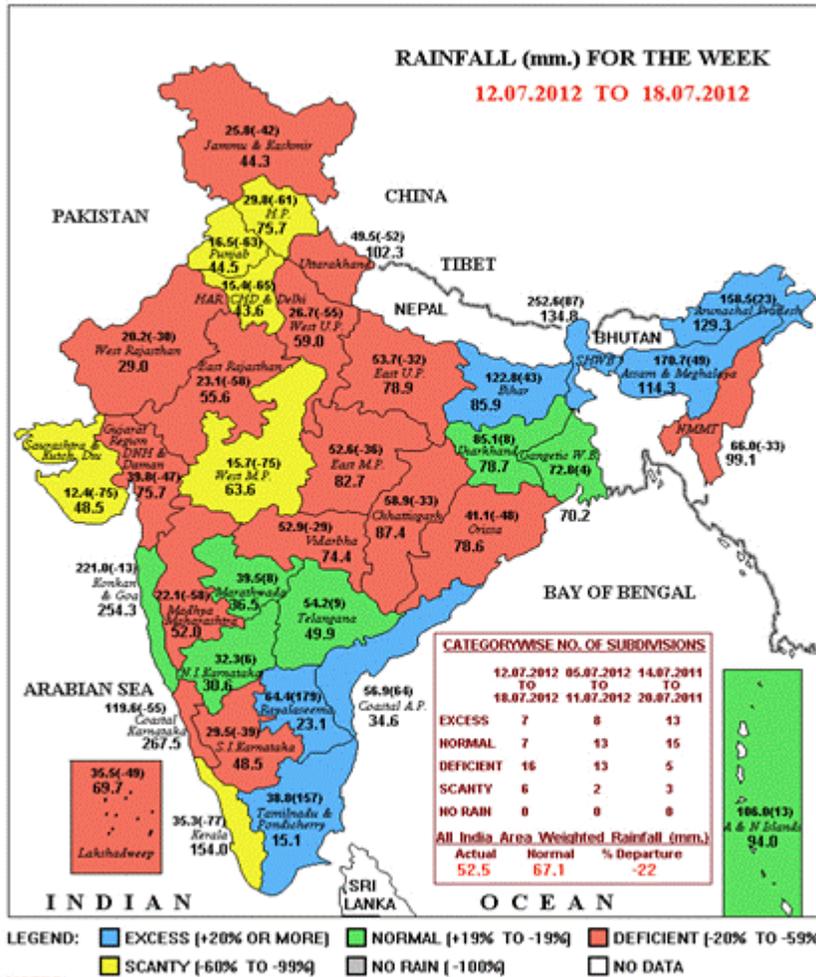
Crop Name	Area sown in 2012	Normal area for this time of the year
Rice	14.45	15.33
Coarse cereals	9.54	12.62
Pulses	4.02	5.17
Total oilseeds	10.88	10.95
Cotton	8.37	9.00
Sugarcane	5.28	4.69
All crops	52.54	57.76

Source: [Press Information Bureau, GOI](#)

Note: Area shown above is in million hectares

Figure 1. India: Rainfall during July 12 through July 18, 2012

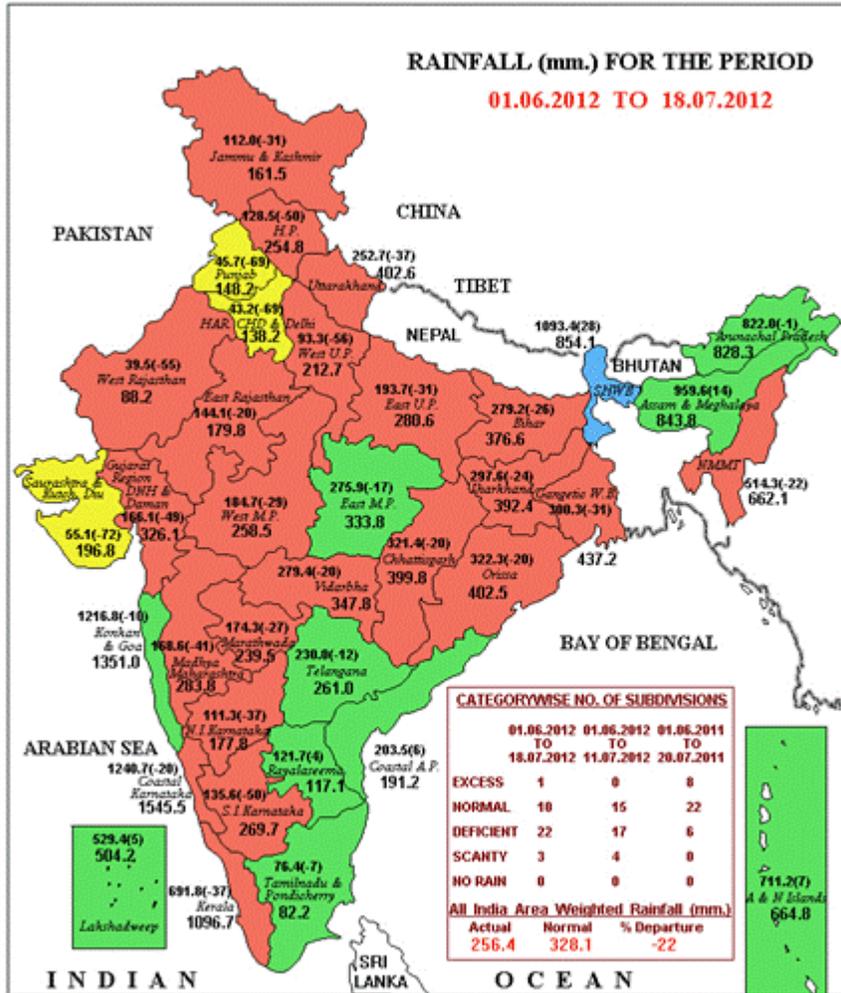
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INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

Figure 2. India: Rainfall during June 1 through July 18, 2012

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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