

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary - Public

**Date:** 10/15/2010

**GAIN Report Number:** IN1100

## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### **Monsoon Wrap Up Report 2010**

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

**Approved By:**

Holly Higgins

**Prepared By:**

Santosh Singh

**Report Highlights:**

The 2010 monsoon withdrawal commenced from the north west parts of India on September 27, with a delay of nearly 4 weeks from the normal date. While overall rainfall was normal, the 2010 monsoon season (June-September) was characterized by regional variation and heavy late season rainfall, which is likely to have some negative impact on kharif (fall and early harvested) crops, particularly rice.

## General Information:

### 2010 Monsoon Performance

The monsoon set in over the southern tip of the Indian subcontinent on May 31, and progressed in spurts to cover the entire country by July 6, about 9 days earlier than usual (see attachment figure 1). For the country as a whole, the rainfall for the season (June-September) was 102 percent of the long period average (LPA). The cumulative rainfall from June 1 to September 30 was normal and above normal in 31 of the 36 weather sub-divisions in the country, which account for about 85 percent of the total area (see attachment figure 2). The 2010 monsoon rainfall levels had been above normal in peninsular India, normal in central and northwest India, but deficient over north east India (see attachment figure 2).

**Table: 1 Regional Rainfall Distribution during 2010 Monsoon Season**

Region	Actual rainfall (mm)	Long Period Average (mm)	Actual as percentage of LPA
South Peninsula	853.6	722.9	118%
Northwest India	688.2	613.0	112%
Central India	1027.9	991.5	104%
Northeast India	1175.8	1436.2	82%
All India	912.8	893.2	102%

Source: Indian Meterological Department

Despite timely onset of the 2010 monsoon, rainfall activity during June was subdued (16 percent below the LPA). However, monsoon activity recovered strongly in July (3 percent above LPA) in most parts of the country except northeast India, which continued to experience deficient rains. The rainfall situation improved further in August (6 percent above LPA). However, insufficient rains and consequent dry conditions during the normal planting period (June-July) in northeastern India impacted planting of rice, which is largely rainfed. Monsoon rainfall in the month of September was relatively heavy (13 above LPA), causing flood-like situations in some parts of northern India.

The withdrawal of the 2010 monsoon started from west Rajasthan on September 27 after a delay of nearly 4 weeks from the normal date of September 1, 2010. Subsequently, the monsoon withdrew from most parts of northwest India and some parts of central India as late as October 1, 2010 (see attachment figure 4).

### Kharif Crop Planting Progress

The government's initial planting report shows that area coverage for most kharif crops is well ahead of last year, except for select oilseed crops like soybean, sunflower, sesame, etc. While planting of rice is ahead of last year, it is well behind rice plantings in 2008, the previous normal monsoon season. Inadequate rainfall in northeast India during June-July has adversely impacted rice planting in the region.

**Table 2: Progressive Planting of Major Kharif crops as on October 1, 2010**

(Area in Million hectares)

Crop	Area on Oct 1, 2010	Area on Oct 1, 2009	Area on Oct 1, 2008
Rice	35.12	33.03	38.14
Coarse cereals	21.22	20.62	19.78
Oilseeds	17.47	17.39	18.19
Pulses	11.39	9.46	10.42
Sugarcane	5.06	4.20	4.42
Cotton	10.76	9.88	9.08
All Crops	101.18	95.27	100.78

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Relatively heavy late season rains have caused some minor damage to standing crops like rice, cotton and pulses. However, these rains will provide adequate soil moisture conditions to standing kharif crops supporting higher yields, and improve planting conditions for Rabi (winter season) crops like wheat, rapeseed, pulses and winter rice.