

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

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India

Post: New Delhi

Monsoon report - 7

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) estimates rainfall from August to September will be at 43.45 centimeter (cm), five percent less than the long period average (LPA) (based on data from 1950 to 2000). Cumulative rainfall from June to September is now forecast at 77.43 cm, 13 percent below the LPA. *Kharif* (fall and early harvested) crop planting is down 9 percent compared to last year due to poor rainfall.

General Information:

On August 12, 2014, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) released its [long-range forecast](#) for August to September, which is forecast at 43.45 centimeter (cm), five percent less than the long period average (LPA) (based on data from 1950 to 2000). Cumulative rainfall from June to September is now forecast at 77.43 cm, 13 percent below the LPA. In April 2014, IMD had forecast 2014 monsoon rainfall at 84.55 cm.

Geographically, IMD predicts rainfall distribution over northwestern India at 46.74 cm, or 24 percent below the LPA for the region. For central India, the southern peninsula, and northeastern India, rainfall is forecast at 86.70 cm, 62.26 cm, and 133.71 cm, ranging from seven to 13 percent below the LPA for each region. For the next two to three months, the IMD also predicts a 50 percent chance of a weak El Niño, which might help boost rainfall throughout the country.

Table 1. India: Seasonal Rainfall (in cm) from June 1 to August 12, 2014

Regions	Actual Rainfall	Normal Rainfall	% Departure from LPA
All India	46.33	56.18	-18
East and northeast India	70.18	92.56	-24
Northwest India	27.27	38.20	-29
Central India	56.95	61.83	-08
South Peninsula	38.60	45.13	-14

Source: IMD

Of the 36 meteorological sub-divisions, half received normal rains while others remained dry (Figure 1). On August 6, 2014, around 53 percent of India's geographic area received normal rains, 42 percent were deficient, and 5 percent received excess rains. According to IMD's weather outlook from August 16 to 20, 2014, rainfall was expected for the entire country except for northwest India, which was predicted to receive below-normal rains.

Additionally, as per the latest data available from the Ministry of Agriculture, on August 7, 2014, 85 major water reservoirs had 88.74 billion cubic meters (bcm), which was 18 percent less than last year and was 16.2% above the normal storage.

***Kharif* Planting Down Nine Percent**

Kharif (fall and early harvested) crop planting is down 9 percent compared to last year. Approximately 94 percent of the area has been planted. From the second half of July to the first week of August, normal to high rainfall encouraged farmers to increase planting pace. Improved soil moisture should support plant growth. Paddy rice transplanting should continue through mid-August in some eastern, central, and southern Indian states. Oilseeds, pulses, and forage crops may also be planted during the same time frame. However, the extended planting window could delay plantings of major *rabi* (winter) season crops such as wheat and gram.

Table 2. India: All India Crop Progress as of August 08, 2014

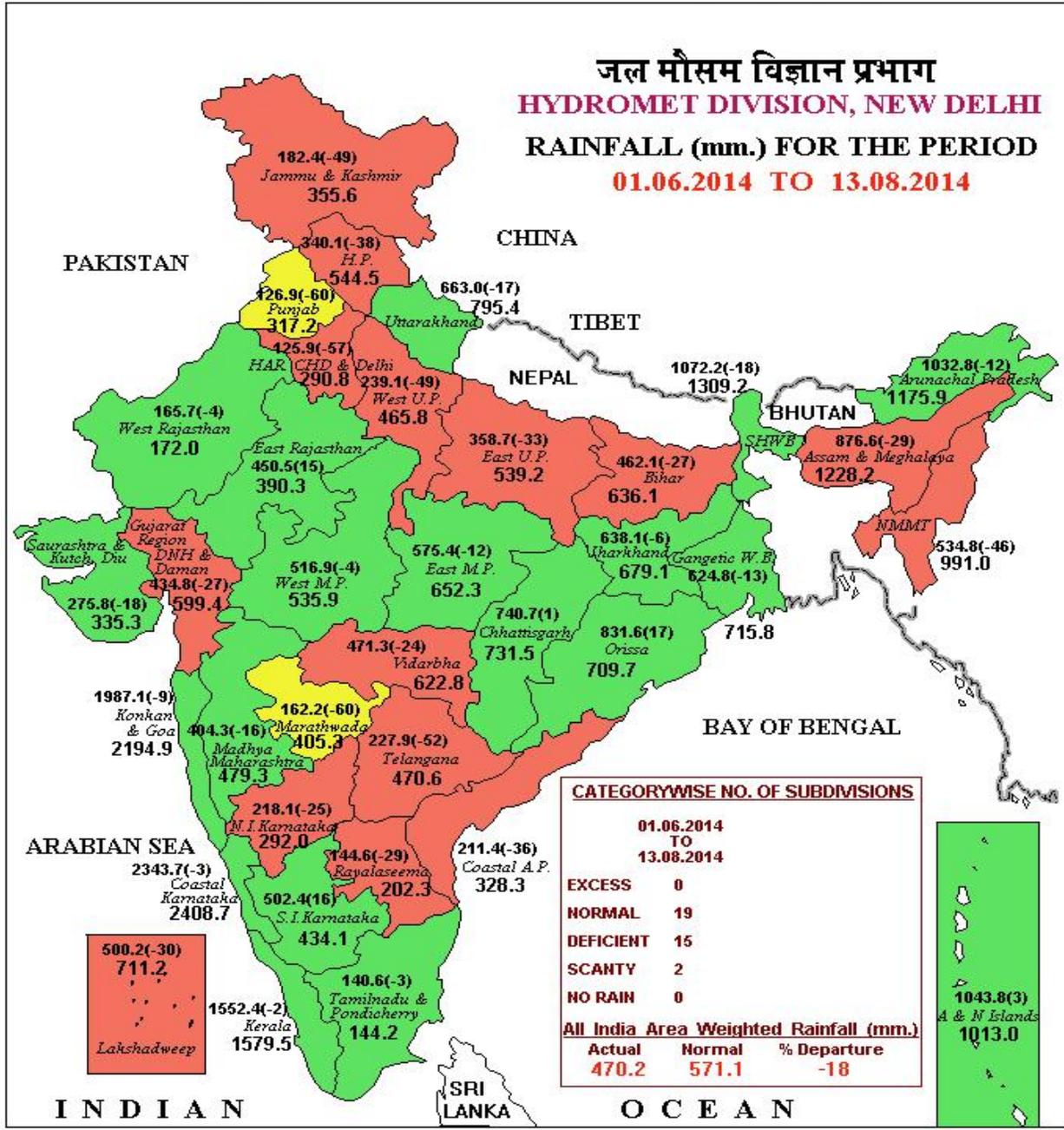
Crop	Planting 2014	Planting 2013	Normal area as on August 8
Rice	26.73	27.31	27.91
Coarse Grains	14.01	17.71	17.27
Pulses	7.60	8.90	8.67
Oilseeds	15.22	17.37	15.61
Sugarcane	4.71	5.03	4.83
Cotton	11.22	11.01	10.56
Total	79.49	87.33	84.85

Source: [Ministry of Agriculture, GOI](#)

Note: Area is in million hectares.

Figure 1. India: Rainfall during June 1 through August 13, 2014

जल मौसम विज्ञान प्रभाग
HYDROMET DIVISION, NEW DELHI
RAINFALL (mm.) FOR THE PERIOD
01.06.2014 TO 13.08.2014



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