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**Date:** 7/6/2012

**GAIN Report Number:** IN2091

## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### Monsoon Report 2

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

On June 22, 2012 the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) released its second long-range 2012 monsoon forecast predicting normal rainfall (96-104 percent of Long Period Average). However, slow progress and scanty rainfall during the first weeks of the monsoon season (which lasts June to September) is raising serious concern among farmers and government decision makers. The window of opportunity for planting most *kharif* (fall and early harvested) crops such as rice, coarse grains, soybeans, cotton, peanuts and pulses extends through mid-July. If sufficient rains arrive next week, planting operations will likely resume normally, otherwise delayed planting will have a significant impact on the 2012 *kharif* season.

## General Information:

### IMD projects normal monsoon

On June 22, 2012 the IMD released its second long-range 2012 monsoon [forecast](#) of seasonal (June-September) rainfall, predicting **normal rainfall** (96-104 percent of Long Period Average (LPA)). The forecast predicts that July and August rains will be at 98 percent and 96 percent of the LPA, with a model error of  $\pm 9$  percent. Geographically, rainfall distribution is forecast to be 93 percent of its LPA over northwest India, 96 percent of the LPA over central India, 95 percent of the LPA in the south peninsula, and 99 percent of the LPA over northeastern India with a model error of  $\pm 8$  percent.

### Poor Rains in First Quarter, North India Remaining Dry

The monsoon started on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, four days behind schedule. While the monsoon was expected to extend over the entire country by end of the June, rain coverage through the end of June has remained consistently below normal, with most parts of the north, northwest India still waiting for the first rainfall. The cumulative seasonal rainfall has been 23 percent below the Long Period Average (LPA), with 64 percent of India's area receiving deficient or scanty rainfall (Figure 1 and 2). For the week ending July 6<sup>th</sup>, the IMD predicts favorable conditions for further advancement of the monsoon over parts of central and northwest India.

### The Window for Planting Kharif Crops is Narrowing

The slow progress of the monsoon has delayed *kharif* (fall and early harvested) crop planting for rice, pulses, oilseed, cotton and coarse grains. As a result, planted area for most crops is lower than the corresponding period last year (see table below).

**Table 1. India: Cropped Area as on June 29, 2012**

Crop	Area in million hectares
Rice	3.96 (4.13)
Pulses	0.40 (0.70)
Coarse cereals	1.04 (2.20)
Sugarcane	5.22 (5.14)
Oilseeds	1.08 (3.14)
Cotton	3.11 (3.51)

Source: PIB Press Release.

Note: Figures in parentheses correspond to area planted last year.

While rice production in the major states of Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu is mostly irrigated, producers still depend on monsoon rains to replenish groundwater reserves for irrigation. According to a recent press release from the Press Information Bureau (PIB), recent rain in eastern and northeastern India, the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and parts of Karnataka will facilitate the transplanting of rice. However, high temperature and sporadic rain could reduce fertilizer

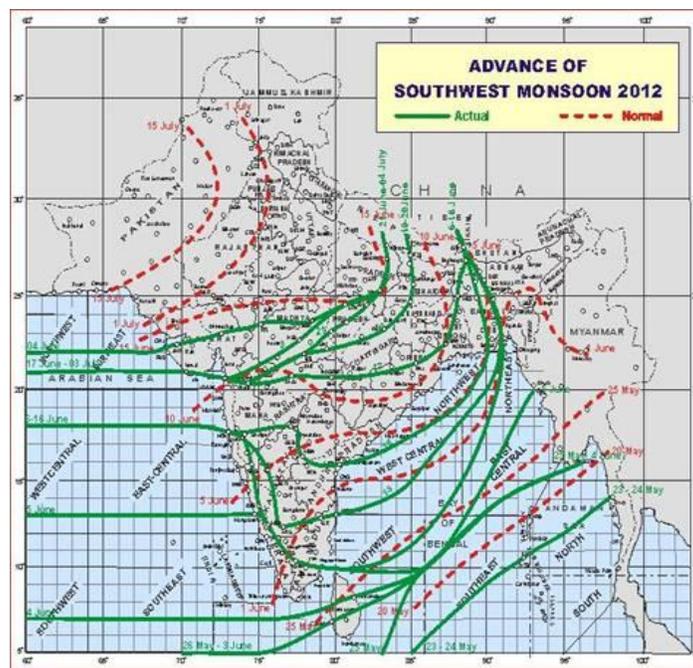
application which would have a negative impact on yields.

Coarse grains such as corn, sorghum and pearl millet are largely non-irrigated crops grown in central and north India. Insufficient rain in these regions has delayed planting, particularly in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Further rain delays could have a serious impact on coarse grain production.

Other crops such as peanut, soybean and pulses are all monsoon-dependent. While rain in some districts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra (Vidarbha) has prompted early planting of soybeans, peanut planting in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka has been delayed, thus reducing the overall area planted to oilseeds. With monsoon rains advancing over central India, soybean planting is likely to gain momentum in Madhya Pradesh.

Out of the normal cropped area of 105.7 million hectares during the entire *kharif* season, which includes 71.3 million hectares for food grains, 17.6 million hectares for oilseeds and 16.8 million hectares for other technical crops like sugarcane, cotton and jute, only 14.8 % of planted area is now complete (compared to 16.2 % last year). The window of opportunity for planting most *kharif* crops (rice, coarse grains, soybeans, cotton, peanuts and pulses) extends through mid of July. Rains in July and August are critical for crop development. If sufficient rains arrive next week, planting operations will likely resume normally, otherwise delayed planting will have a significant impact on the 2012 *kharif* season.

**Figure 1: Progress of Monsoon 2012**



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

**Figure 2: Rainfall during the period starting June 1 to June 27, 2012**

# भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Source: Indian Meteorological Department