

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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GAIN Report Number: IN2106

India

Post: New Delhi

Monsoon Report 4

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

Grain and Feed

Cotton and Products

Oilseeds and Products

Sugar

Approved By:

Allan Mustard

Prepared By:

Amit Aradhey

Report Highlights:

On August 2, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a forecast predicting below-normal (less than 94% of Long Period Average) monsoon rains for second half of the monsoon season (August-September). Based on current outlook and rainfall distribution till date, seasonal rainfall for the entire monsoon season is likely to be deficient (below 90% of LPA). With the *kharif* crop planting down 11 percent at 66 million hectares, the major crops likely to be affected by deficit rains are sugarcane, cotton, rice, peanut, pulses and coarse grains.

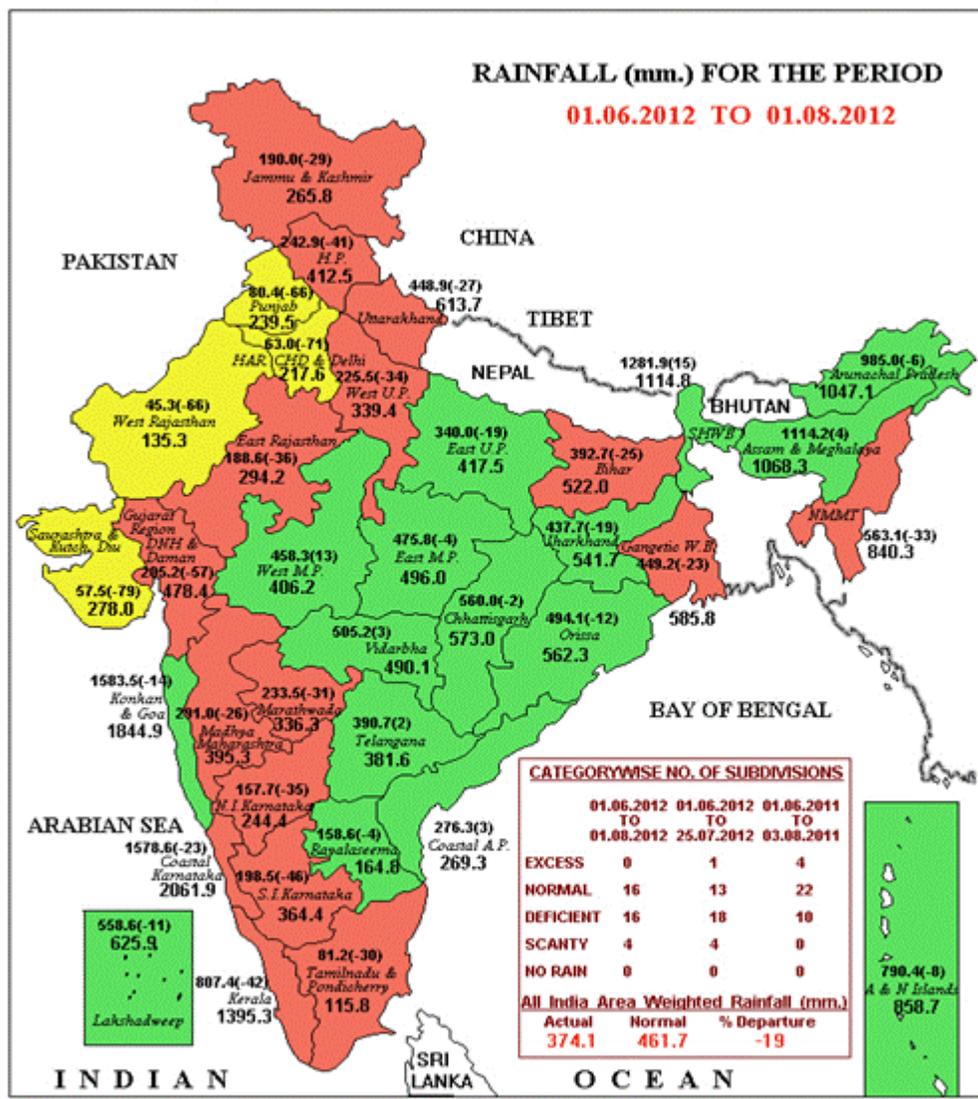
General Information:

The cumulative rain deficit during first half of the monsoon season (June-July) has narrowed down to 19% from previous week's 22 percent (Figure 1). On August 2, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a forecast predicting below-normal (less than 94% of Long Period Average) monsoon rains for second half of the monsoon season (August-September). Based on IMD's quantitative model, rainfall for the whole country during June through September is likely to be 91% of LPA with a model error of +/- 8% (this model assumes the monsoon will recover to normal in August and September). During June-July, actual rainfall received across India was 81% of LPA. Except for central and northeast India that received over 85% of LPA, the northwest and southern third of the subcontinent received 64% and 77%, respectively.

Rainfall distribution is especially critical at this time of year to promote crop growth. *Kharif* crop planting is down 11 percent at 66 million hectares. The situation is of particular concern for sugarcane, cotton, rice, peanut, millet, sorghum, and pulse crops, as their major growing regions have received deficient rains. Poor rains in northern India could adversely affect planting of *rabi* crops such as wheat, rapeseed and pulses in the fall, unless this region receives excellent rainfall in the next two months.

Figure 1. India: Rainfall during June 1 through August 1, 2012

भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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

