

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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India

Post: New Delhi

Monsoon Report 6

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Grain and Feed

Cotton and Products

Oilseeds and Products

Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

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Report Highlights:

All-India cumulative rains until July 17 were 16 percent above normal since the onset of the monsoon. Official forecasters expect heavy rains for the week ending July 26 and above normal rains for the month of July. Good rains have accelerated planting and planted area has reached 61.2 million hectares, 23 percent ahead of a year ago when a late monsoon delayed the onset of planting across much of India.

General Information:

Monsoon Rains Continue, Reservoirs Re-Charging

All-India weighted cumulative rains through July 17 were 16 percent above normal (Figure 1). Drier conditions continue in the eastern and northeastern states. The northern states of Punjab and Haryana were dry during the week ending July 17 (Figure 2).^[1] For the week ending July 26, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts normal-to-heavy rains. The IMD in its second long-range 2013 monsoon [forecast](#) predicted that rainfall in July would be 101 percent of the long-term average with a model error of ± 9 percent.

According to the latest data from the Indian Ministry of Agriculture, live storage of water across 85 major reservoirs was 56.3 billion cubic meters (bcm) as compared to 27.76 bcm on corresponding date last year and 37.9 bcm of normal storage (average storage of the last 10 years) as of July 11. The current year's storage is 203 percent of last year's and 149 percent of normal storage.^[2]

Progress of planting

As of July 20, 2013, *kharif* (summer) planting covered 61.2 million hectares, up 23 percent compared to last year and six percent above normal area sown at this time of the year (Table- 1). The early onset of monsoon rains accelerated *kharif* planting, except for sugarcane which is marginally lagging behind last year's level but still ahead of normal planted area.

The window of opportunity for planting *kharif* crops is nearly closed but may extend until the end of July for some short duration crops. Better rains, particularly in eastern and northeastern states should facilitate the transplanting of rice while facilitating the growth of other *kharif* crops in remaining parts of India.^[3] Anticipating favorable returns, soybeans have been planted at a record area of 11 million hectares with Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra contributing 54 percent and 31 percent, respectively.^[4] Cotton acreage has gone up due to large planting in Gujarat and Maharashtra. By mid-July, cotton planting was 10 percent ahead of normal planting for this time of year. Similarly, higher planting in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Karnataka has boosted the acreage of pulses and coarse cereals (mainly corn).

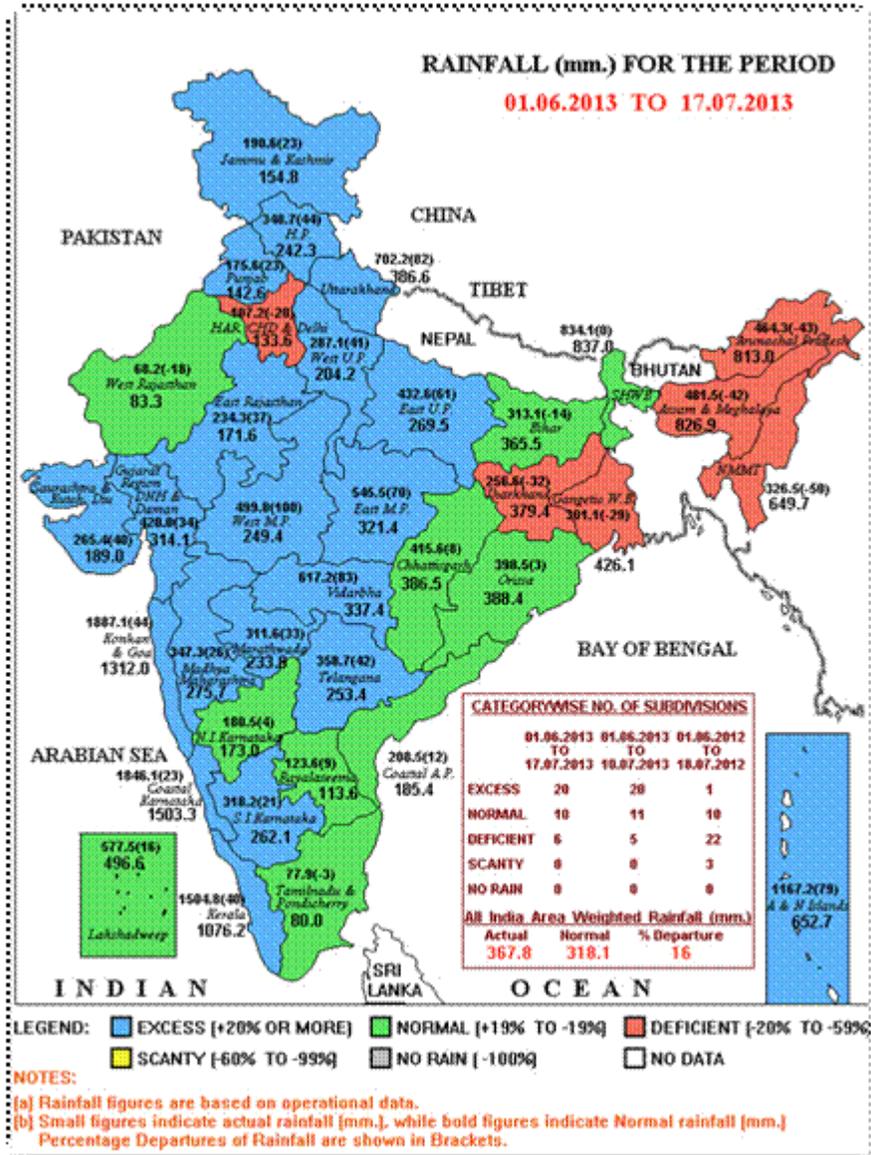
Table 1. India: All India Crop Progress as of July 20, 2013

Crop Name	Area sown in 2013	Area sown in 2012	Normal area for this time of the year
Rice	15.48	13.94	15.33
Coarse cereals	12.66	9.54	12.62
Pulses	3.16	2.05	5.17
Total oilseeds	14.98	10.88	10.95
Cotton	10.05	8.37	9.00
Sugarcane	4.84	5.00	4.69
All crops	61.17	49.78	57.76

Source: [PIB Press Release](#)

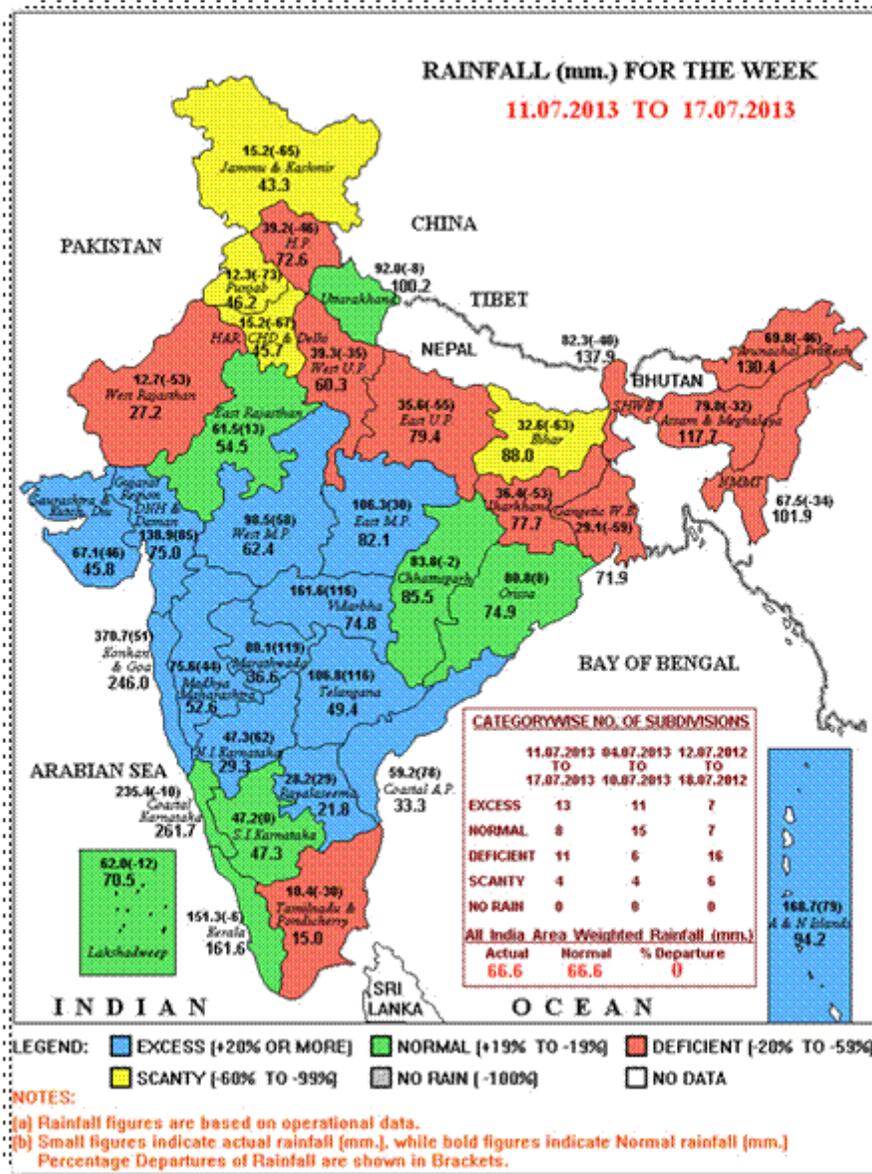
Note: Area shown above is in million hectares

Figure 1. India: Rainfall during June 1 through July 17, 2013



Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

Figure 2. India: Rainfall during July 11 through July 17, 2013



Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

[1] Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand and Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi

[2] Central Water Commission monitors 85 major reservoirs in the country which have a total live capacity of 154.88 billion Cubic meters (bcm) at full reservoir level.

[3] Rainfall distribution is especially critical at this time of year to promote crop growth.

[4] [Solvent Extractors' Association of India](http://www.seai.org.in)