

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: 4/29/2013

GAIN Report Number: IN3043

India

Post: New Delhi

2013 Monsoon Forecast

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

Cotton and Products

Grain and Feed

Oilseeds and Products

Approved By:

Allan Mustard

Prepared By:

Amit Aradhey

Report Highlights:

On April 26, 2013, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a “normal monsoon” forecast. According to the IMD model, there is 27 percent probability that rains could be below normal (i.e. 90-96 percent of LPA) while the probabilities of excess (above 110 percent of LPA) or deficit rainfall (below 90 percent of LPA) this season are 3 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

General Information:

Forecast

On April 26, 2013, the IMD released its [long-range forecast](#) of 2013 monsoon season (June-September), predicting a normal monsoon, i.e., 96-104 percent of Long Period Average (LPA) with highest probability of 46 percent. Monsoon season rainfall is most likely to be 98 percent of the LPA with a model error of +/- 5 percent. According to the IMD model, there is 27 percent probability that rains could be below normal (i.e., 90-96 percent of LPA) while the probabilities of excess (above 110 percent of LPA) or deficit rainfall (below 90 percent of LPA) this season are 3 percent and 10 percent, respectively. The IMD is expected to update its monsoon forecast in June 2013, and will be issuing monthly rainfall reports in July and August, as well as a seasonal rainfall report (June-September) for the four main geographical regions of India (East and North-East, North-West, Central, South Peninsular).

Normal and well distributed monsoon rain is crucial for crop year 2013/14 (July-June). India's agricultural production in crop year 2012/13 (July-June) suffered a setback due to delayed and "below-normal" monsoon rains in some parts of the country. Monsoon rains are vital for sustaining agricultural production, particularly for *khariif* (fall and early harvested) planted crops such as rice, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, corn and pulses. Even for irrigated agricultural lands, good monsoon rains can boost yields and reduce the cost of production. A normal southwest monsoon brings 70 percent of total rainfall and irrigates 55 percent of agricultural land.