

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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2013 Monsoon Report 3

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Grain and Feed

Oilseeds and Products

Cotton and Products

Approved By:

Allan Mustard

Prepared By:

Amit Aradhey

Report Highlights:

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the southwest monsoon covered the entire country on June 16, almost a month early compared to its normal schedule. 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.

General Information:

Monsoon progress

According to the [IMD's latest press release](#), the southwest monsoon covered the entire country on June 16, almost a month early (Figure 1) compared to its normal schedule of July 15. With the exception of the northeastern states, the all-India weighted average rainfall from June 1 through June 12 was 23 percent above the normal level of 45.8 mm (Figure 2). The first half of the current week is likely to witness heavy to very heavy rainfall over parts of Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttarakhand while remaining states such as Punjab, Haryana and coastal Karnataka are predicted to receive heavy rains¹. Further, the rains over northwestern plains are forecast to taper off by end of this week.

According to the latest data available from the Indian Ministry of Agriculture, live storage of water across 85 major reservoirs was 31.52 billion cubic meters (bcm) as compared to 29.17 bcm on corresponding date last year and 25.09 bcm of normal storage (average storage of the last 10 years) as of June 6. The current year's storage is 108 percent of last year's and 126 percent of the normal storage².

Kharif planting begins

Timely arrival of monsoon has set in planting operations for *kharif* (fall and early harvested) crops such as rice, oilseed, sugarcane and cotton while pulses and coarse grains planting would follow soon (see table below). Recent rains should facilitate nursery sowing and transplanting of rice in major growing regions except for areas where rains have been below normal (i.e., the northeastern states). The window of opportunity for planting most *kharif* crops extends through mid-July. Rains in July and August are critical for crop development. Excessive rains in a few places could delay planting of *kharif* crops.

Table 1. India: Cropped Area as on June 16, 2013

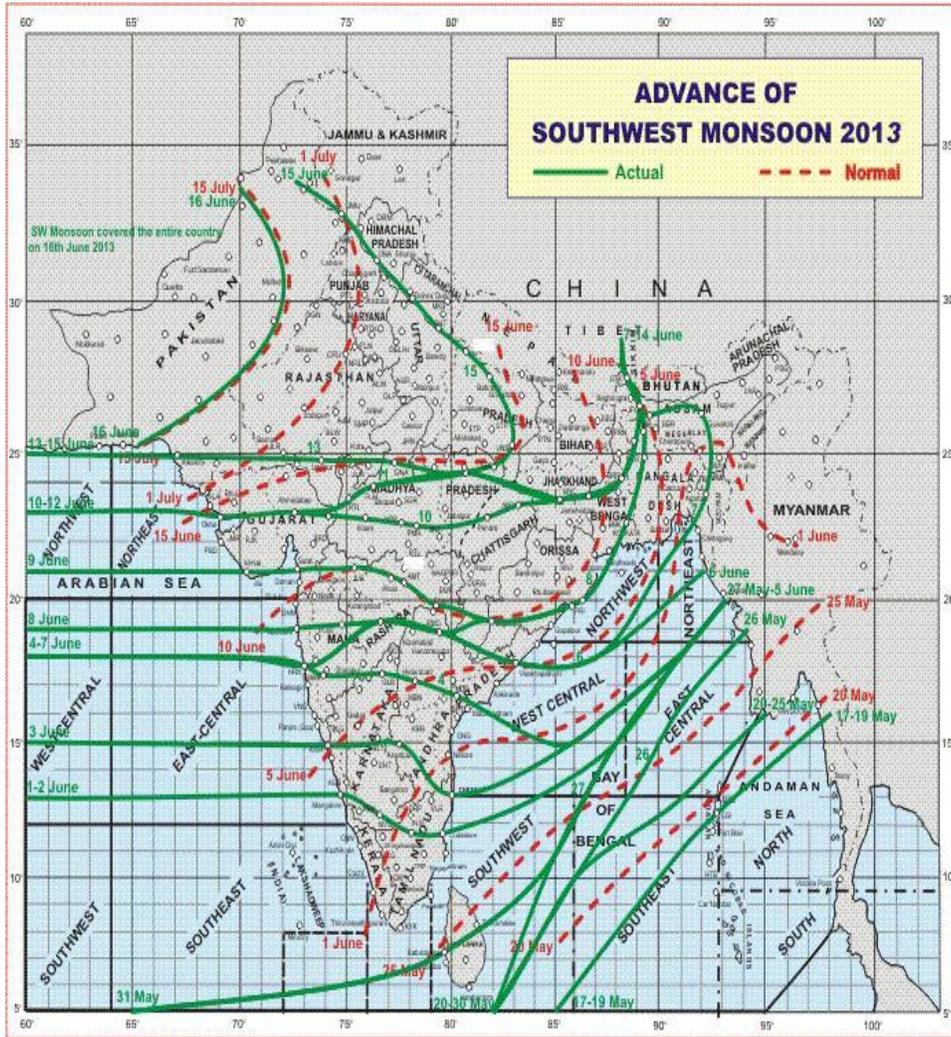
Crop	Area in million hectares
Rice	0.79 (NA)
Sugarcane	4.20 (5.17)
Oilseeds	0.16 (0.17)
Cotton	1.58 (NA)

Source: [PIB Press Release](#)
Note: Figures in parentheses are area planted in corresponding date last year. (NA) indicate data unavailable

¹ According to some media reports, heavy rains in northern states have led to flood like situation, particularly in Uttarakhand.

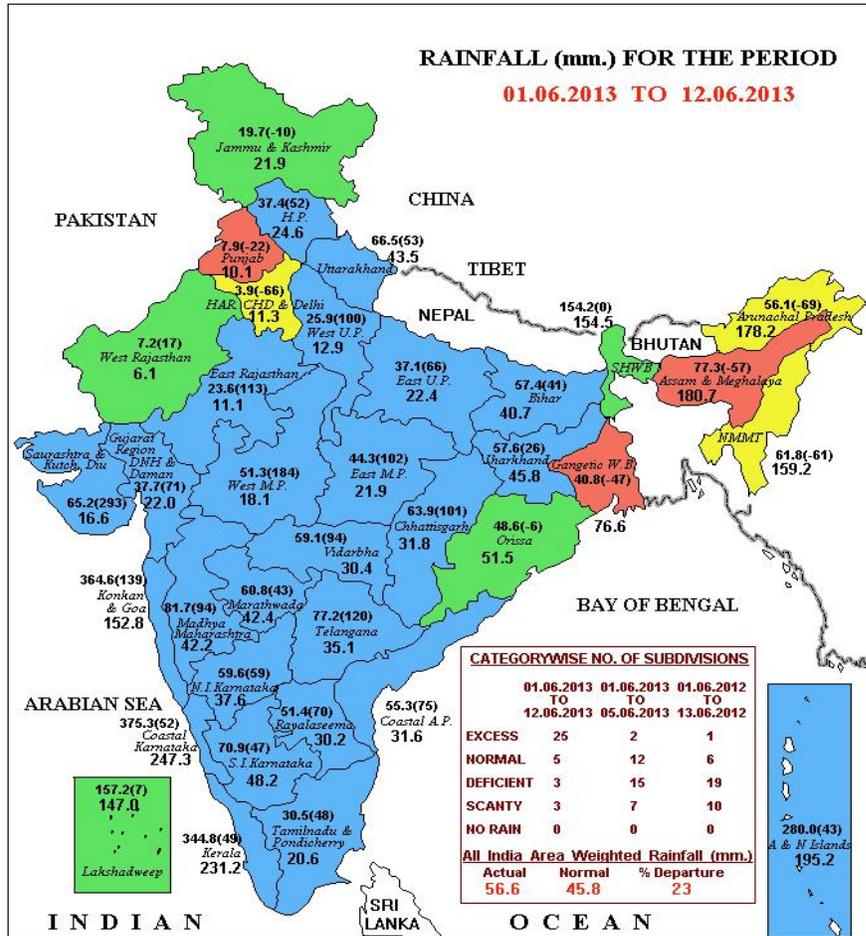
² Central Water Commission monitors 85 major reservoirs in the country which have a total live capacity of 154.88 billion cubic meters (bcm) at full reservoir level.

Figure 1. India: Progress of Monsoon 2013



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Figure 2. India: Rainfall during the period starting June 1 to June 12, 2013



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