

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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India

Post: New Delhi

2013 Monsoon Report 4

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Grain and Feed

Cotton and Products

Oilseeds and Products

Fresh Fruit

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Report Highlights:

The second stage monsoon forecast by the Indian Meteorological Department predicts July and August rains at 101 percent and 96 percent of the Long Period Average of 89 cm. Regionally, the northwestern part of India is predicted to receive below normal rains. Timely onset of monsoon rains has prompted early planting of *kharif* (fall and early harvested) crops, and as a result planted area is 5 percent higher compared to last year.

General Information:

Northwestern India likely to receive below-normal rains

On June 14, 2013 the IMD released its second long-range 2013 monsoon [forecast](#) of seasonal rainfall (June-September), predicting **normal rainfall** (96-104 percent of Long Period Average (LPA)). The forecast predicts that July and August rains will be at 101 percent and 96 percent of the LPA, with a model error of ± 9 percent. Geographically, rainfall distribution is forecast to be 94 percent of the LPA over northwest India, 98 percent of the LPA over central India, 103 percent of the LPA in the south peninsula, and 98 percent of the LPA over northeastern India with a model error of ± 8 percent.

Cumulative rains are 54 percent above LPA

During the week ending June 19, northwestern and central India received very high rainfall, estimated at 400 percent and 172 percent above the respective long period averages (LPA), except for eastern and northeastern states which received little to no rain. The cumulative all-India rainfall through June 19 was 54 percent above the LPA with above-normal rains occurring in 25 of 36 meteorological subdivisions in India (Figure 2). For the current week, moderate to heavy rain is predicted for north central, central and eastern Indian states.

Timely onset of monsoon accelerated *kharif* planting progress

Timely onset of monsoon rains has prompted early planting of *kharif* (fall and early harvested) crops and as a result planted area is 5 percent higher compared to the corresponding date last year, and 11 percent above the normal area planted at this time of the year (see table below). Cotton and oilseed planting continue to gain momentum, given favorable weather and adequate rain over major growing regions. A forecast of rain over the major rice growing belt should facilitate nursery planting and transplanting of rice. Sufficient rain should encourage timely planting of corn, sorghum and pearl millet. Planting of other monsoon-dependent crops such as peanut, soybean and pulses will also benefit from recent rains. The prospect of a normal monsoon is good news critical for crop development in July and August.

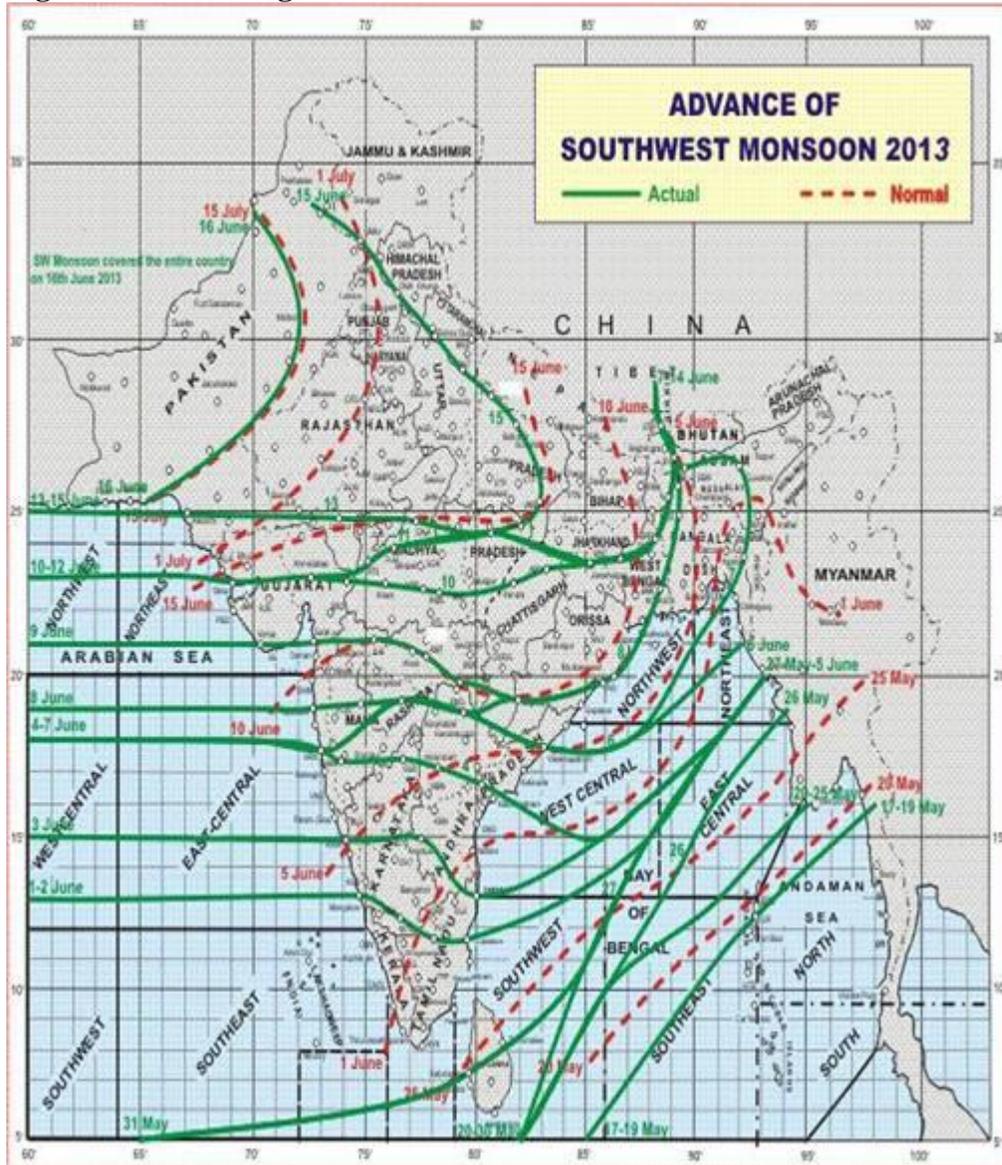
On the flip side, unseasonal snow, incessant rain, and landslides in Himachal Pradesh have caused severe damage to apple orchards, particularly in Kinnaur district. Similarly, flash floods and heavy rains in Uttarakhand have caused irreparable damage to life, property and food crops, the value of which is yet to be ascertained.

Table 1. India: *Kharif* Cropped Area (million hectares)

Crop	Normal planting area as of June 21, 2013	Actual area planted as of June 21, 2013	Area planted as of June 21, 2012
Rice	1.60	1.64	1.87
Pulses	0.12	0.37	NA
Sugarcane	4.55	4.45	5.15
Oilseeds	0.34	0.81	0.31
Cotton	2.45	2.81	2.11

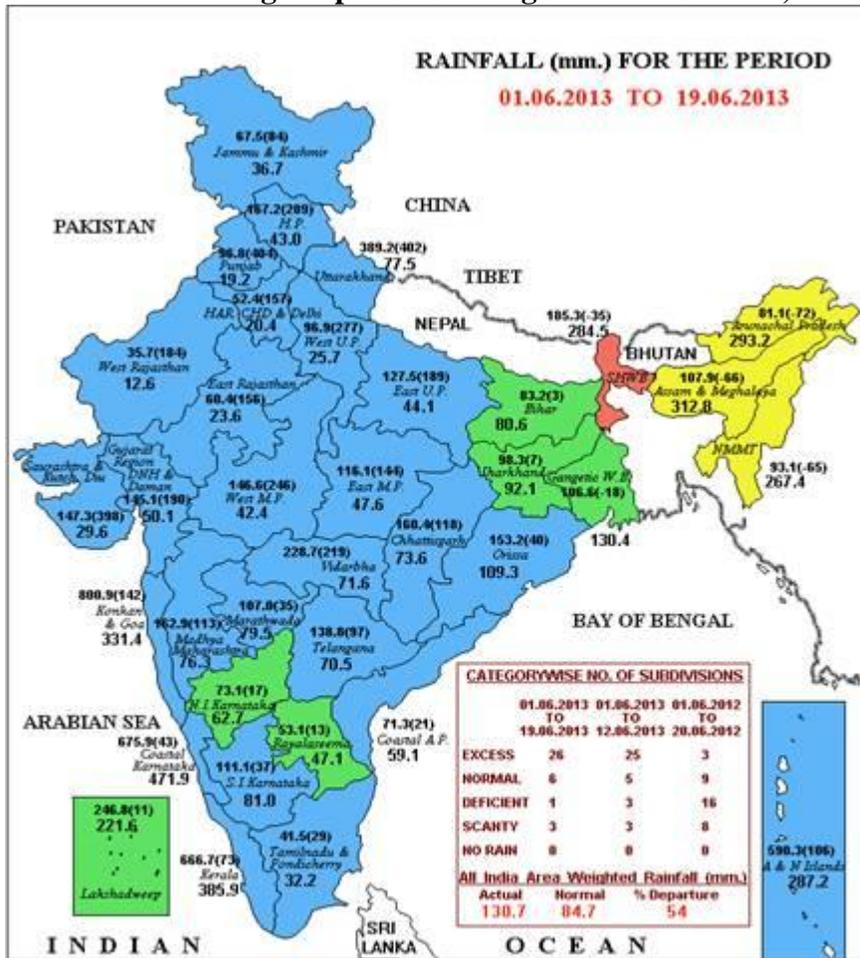
Source: PIB Press Release
 NA: Not Available

Figure 1. India: Progress of Monsoon 2013



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Figure 2: Rainfall during the period starting June 1 to June 19, 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