

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Monsoon Report - 2

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Grain and Feed

Sugar

Oilseeds and Products

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Report Highlights:

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the 2015 southwest monsoon has covered the country by June 26, three weeks in advance. The cumulative rainfall from June 1 to 24 was 24 percent over its long-term average (LTA) of 117.7 millimeter (mm). As a result, *kharif* (fall harvested) crop planting rose 25 percent to 15.8 million hectares. Spatial distribution of rainfall in July and August will prove crucial for crop development.

General Information:

2015 Southwest Monsoon Covered Entire Country, 3 weeks in Advance

The 2015 southwest monsoon has covered the entire country by June 26, almost three weeks in advance (Figure 1). According to the latest IMD's [press release](#), the cumulative rainfall from June 1 to 24 was 24 percent over its long-term average (LTA) of 117.7 millimeter (mm). Rainfall has been excess over central India and southern peninsular region. Of total 36 meteorological sub-divisions in India, rainfall has been excess to normal in about 29 sub-divisions while remaining received deficient/scanty rainfall (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and few north-eastern states, Figure 2).

Kharif Crops Covered an Additional 25 Percent Area

Kharif (fall harvested) crop planting has advanced to 15.8 million hectares, up 25 percent over last year (Table 1). Oilseeds, cotton, coarse cereals and pulses crop acreage has risen in response to abundant rains; although the window of opportunity for planting most *kharif* crops extends through mid-July. Excess June rains should improve water levels in key reservoirs. However, spatial distribution of rainfall in July and August will prove crucial for crop development.

Water in Reservoirs Higher than Last year

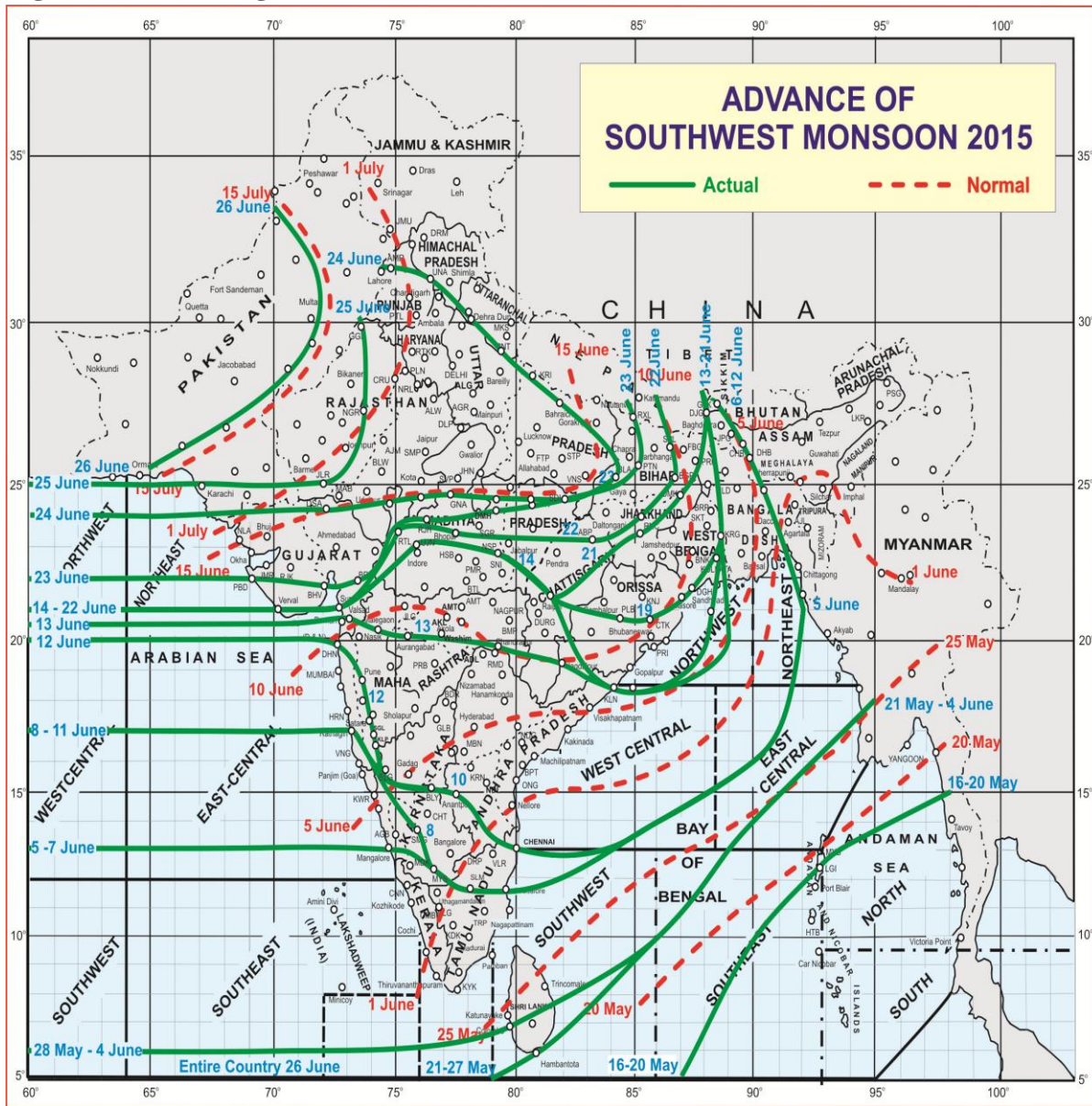
According to the Central Water Commission, water stock in 91 major reservoirs decreased to 39.61 from previous week's level of 40.41 billion cubic meters (bcm). However, current storage level is higher than the last year's position of 38.40 bcm and more than the average of last 10 year's storage of 28.48 bcm (total live capacity across 91 reservoirs is 157.80 bcm, which is 74 percent of total reservoir capacity in India). Source: [Weather watch report, MoA, GoI](#)

Table 1. India: Kharif Planting Progress as on June 26, 2015, In Million Hectares

Crop	Area planted in 2015	Area planted in 2014
Rice	2.32	2.50
Pulses	1.10	0.61
Coarse cereals	1.92	1.67
Sugarcane	4.15	4.39
Oilseeds	2.78	0.52
Cotton	3.48	2.90
Total	15.75	12.59

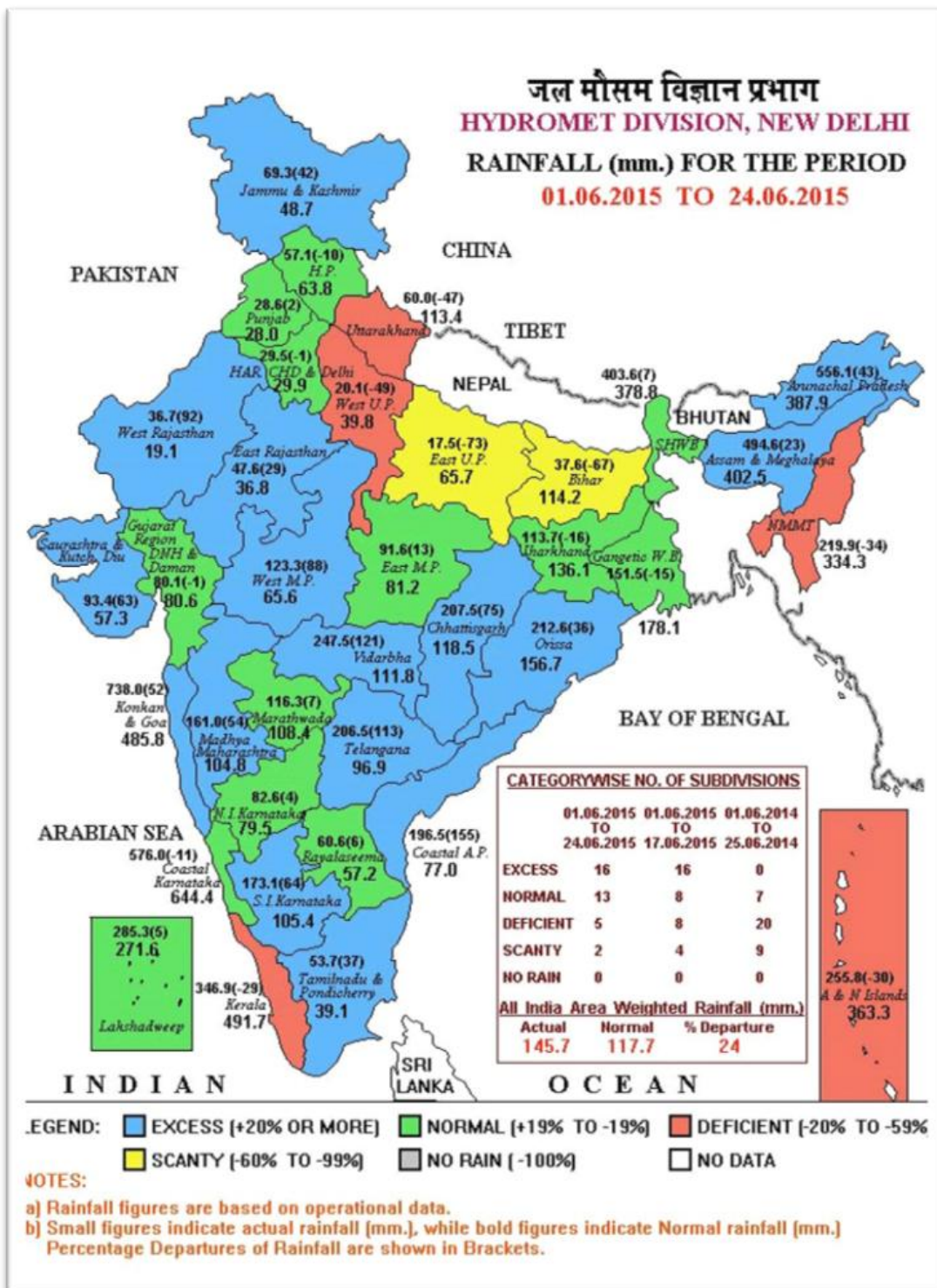
Source: [PIB press release](#)

Figure 1. India: Progress of Monsoon 2015



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Figure 2. India: Rainfall during the period starting June 1 to June 24, 2015



Source: Indian Meteorological Department