

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### Monsoon Report 7

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

Grain and Feed

Cotton and Products

Oilseeds and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The all-India weighted cumulative rainfall through mid-August was 13 percent above the August Long Period Average of 58 cm. Encouraged by good rains, farmers planted an additional 3.2 million hectares under *kharif* cultivation. Continued high rainfall coupled with little sunshine and lack of dry weather could lower soybean and cotton production in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, and sorghum production in western Madhya Pradesh.

## General Information:

The all-India weighted cumulative rainfall through mid-August was 13 percent <sup>[1]</sup> above August Long Period Average <sup>[2]</sup> of 58 cm. Rainfall ranged from were normal-to-above average in 30 meteorological sub-divisions, while drier conditions prevailed in six sub-divisions that included the eastern and northeastern states <sup>[3]</sup> as well as the northern central state of Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi. <sup>[4]</sup> Until August 22, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts normal to heavy rainfall in most of India except for isolated rains over Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Additionally, according to the latest data available from the Indian Ministry of Agriculture, as of August 1, 2013, 85 major reservoirs held 97.35 billion cubic meters (bcm) of water, which is 212% higher than last year and 164% above the 10 years average.

## Farmers Planted an Additional 3.2 Million Hectares Under *Kharif* Planting

Normal to above average rainfall in the last two and half months of monsoon season (June-September) has encouraged farmers to grow an additional 3.2 million hectares under *kharif* (July-September monsoon) cultivation. Because of expectations of relatively higher returns, farmers have increased acreage for cash crops such as cotton, sugarcane and oilseeds at the expense of cereals, coarse cereals and pulses. Current *kharif* plantings are 92.2 million hectares, up 9.2% over last year and approximately 4% above the 5-year average area (Table 1).

Continued high rainfall coupled with little sunshine and a lack of dry weather could lower yield prospects for soybean and cotton production in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, and sorghum production in western Madhya Pradesh. The current forecast from IMD predicts normal rains through August 22, which may facilitate (additional) transplanting of rice in relatively eastern, northeastern and southern states. The *kharif* harvest will largely depend on when the monsoon retreats in September.

Recent rains will also help recharge ground water levels, which should improve soil moisture for *rabi* sowing.

**Table 1. India: All India Crop Planting Progress as of August 17, 2013**

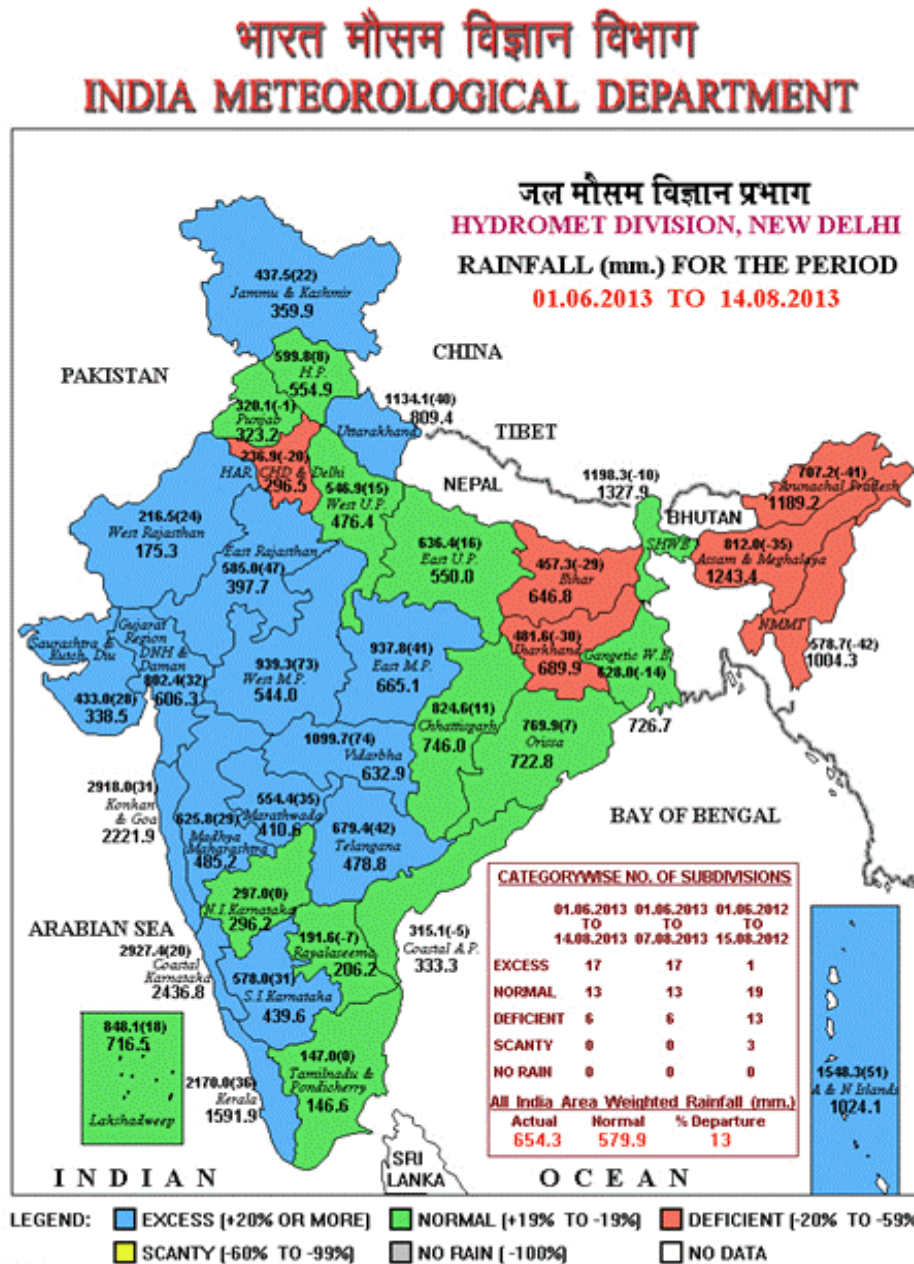
Crop (Million hectares)	Crop Year 2013/14	Crop Year 2013/14	Normal area* for 33 <sup>rd</sup> week of the year
Rice	30.46	29.25	29.06
Coarse Grains	18.15	15.79	18.79
Pulses	9.32	7.44	9.71
Oilseeds	18.33	15.89	16.03
Sugarcane	4.85	5.00	4.67
Cotton	11.09	11.02	10.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>92.20</b>	<b>84.39</b>	<b>88.77</b>

Source: [PIB Press Release](#), GOI.

\*: Average of last 5 years

Crop year July-June.

Figure 1. India: Rainfall from June 1 to August 14, 2013



Source:

Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

- [1] Cumulative rainfall until August 7 was 15% above normal. The eastern and northeastern region received 33% below normal rainfall.
- [2] The August long period average is based on data from CY 1951-2000
- [3] Include Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Jharkhand and Bihar where cumulative rains were 32% below the Long Period Average.
- [4] Geographically, 86% of area has received normal to high rainfall, while remaining area received below-normal rains.