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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Normal Southwest Monsoon predicted in second forecast

Report Categories:

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Report Highlights:

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) published its second long-range forecast predicting a normal Southwest Monsoon (June to September) for 2019. The rainfall is likely to be 96 percent of the long period average (LPA). Deficit pre-monsoon rains (March to May) along with severe heatwave conditions has led to low reservoir storage levels across western and southern regions of India.

General Information:

On May 31, 2019, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), published its second long-range forecast predicting a normal Southwest Monsoon for 2019. The rainfall is likely to be 96 percent of the long period average (LPA) with a model error of plus/minus four percent. The fifty-year (1951-2000) LPA for the Southwest Monsoon rainfall is 89 cm. The monthly rainfall over the country is likely to be 95 percent of its LPA during July, and 99 percent of LPA during August, both with a model error of plus/minus 9 percent. IMD will issue its forecast for rainfall for the second half of the season (August to September) at the end of July 2019. IMD had issued the first long-range forecast for the monsoon on April 15, 2019 with a normal monsoon forecast.

In terms of region-wide monsoon forecasts, the seasonal rainfall is likely to be 94 percent of LPA over North-West India, 100 percent of LPA over Central India, 97 percent of LPA over the South Peninsula, and 91 percent of LPA over North-East India, all with a model error of plus/minus eight percent. For more details, please refer to [IMD Press Release – Second Stage Long Range Forecast for southwest monsoon 2019](#)

Weather outlook for next two weeks

According to the [IMD press release](#), maximum temperatures are very likely to rise gradually by 2-3 degrees Celsius over major parts of northwest India during the next two days (June 1-2). Temperatures are likely to remain above normal by 2-3 degrees Celsius over some parts of the south peninsula during the next 3 days (June 1-4). While, severe heat wave conditions are expected in some parts of West Rajasthan, Vidarbha (Eastern Maharashtra), Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in the next two weeks (June 1-12). Widespread rainfall is forecast over Northeast India, Southern Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, while dry weather is predicted over Northwest and Central India from June 1-4.

Reservoir Status

States having more reservoir storage over last year for the corresponding period are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. States having equivalent reservoir storage as last year for the corresponding period are Karnataka, and two combined reservoir projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. States having lower reservoir storage compared to last year for the corresponding period are Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and individual reservoirs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Table 1. Probability Forecast for Southwest Monsoon 2019

Category	Rainfall Range (% of LPA)	Forecast Probability (%)
Deficient	Less than 90	15
Below Normal	Between 90-96	32
Normal	Between 96-104	41
Above Normal	Between 104-110	10
Excess	Greater than 110	02

Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Table 3. India: Pre-Monsoon Regional Rainfall Distribution from March 1- May 29, 2019

Regions	2019 Actual (mm)	Normal (mm)*	2019 Percentage Departure from Normal
Northwest India	78.0	126.6	-29%
Central India	31.7	109.5	-17%
Southern Peninsula	61.8	38.0	-48%
East and Northeast India	312.5	356.4	-12%
All India	96.6	126.6	-24%

* Normal rainfall is the fifty-year average of rainfall from 1951-2000

Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Table 4. India: Storage Status at 91 Major Reservoirs in Billion Cubic Meters (BCM)

Region	Volume on May 31, 2019 (in BCM)	Total Capacity (in BCM)	Percentage of Capacity on May 31, 2019	Percentage of Capacity on May 31, 2018	10-Year Average Capacity Level on May 31
Northern Region	7.56	18.01	42%	14%	25%
Eastern Region	4.02	18.83	21%	24%	19%
Western Region	3.53	31.26	11%	15%	19%
Central Region	10.62	42.30	25%	23%	21%
Southern Region	5.91	51.59	11%	12%	15%
All India	31.64	161.99	20%	17%	19%

Source: Ministry of Water Resources