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GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Name: Early Monsoon Boosts Kharif Sowing

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Cotton and Products, Grain and Feed, Oilseeds and Products

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Report Highlights:

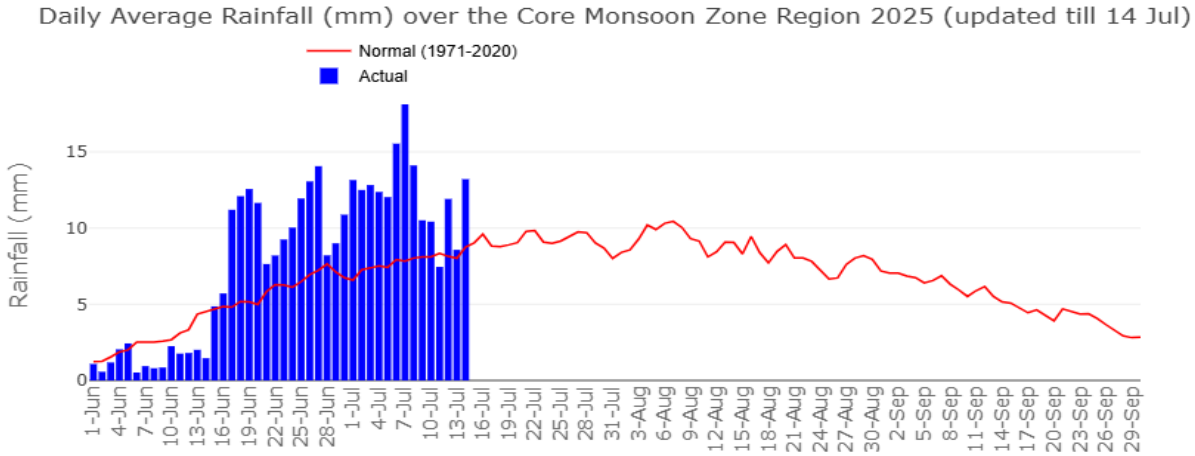
Kharif sowing is currently seven percent higher than the same period last year, supported by the early arrival of the southwest monsoon, which began eight days ahead of schedule. This early onset has improved the outlook for agricultural production. Pulses and vegetable price decreases drove overall food price deflation by -1.06 percent in June. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) expects a rapid advancement of the monsoon during August and September, ensuring adequate soil moisture for Kharif crops. The updated seasonal forecast for June to September indicates a 33 percent probability of rainfall reaching 106 percent of the long-period average (LPA). As of July 14, cumulative rainfall is 10 percent above the LPA.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this report was retrieved from the Ministry of Earth Sciences/India's Meteorological Department (IMD) website https://mausam.imd.gov.in/. The U.S. Consulate General Mumbai – Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA), USDA and/or the U.S. government make no claim of accuracy or authenticity. The Government of India has not officially endorsed this report.

Monsoon Update

The southwest monsoon set in over Kerala on May 24, eight days earlier than the usual onset date of June 1, marking the earliest start in 17 years since 2009. Intense pre-monsoon rains during the last two weeks of May led to flooding and waterlogging in parts of central and southern India. This was followed by a two-week period of deficient rainfall. Although the monsoon's progression slowed across the country in early June, rainfall activity has since intensified, particularly in northwest and central India, which are now receiving above average rainfall.

Figure 1. Daily Average Rainfall over the Core Monsoon Zone (in millimeters)



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Updated Monsoon Forecast

On May 27, IMD published the updated monsoon forecast for June-September. IMD forecasts the southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall over the country at 106 percent of the fifty-year average/LPA with a model error of plus/minus four percent, indicating that above normal rainfall is most likely over the country during the monsoon season from June to September. The monsoon rainfall is forecast to be above normal in central and southern which includes the core monsoon region, while normal rains are forecast for northwest India and deficit rains are forecast for northeast part of the country. IMD will issue the forecast for the rainfall during the second half of the season (Aug/Sep) towards the end of July 2025.

Kharif Sowing Increases, But Excessive Rain Threatens Crops

As of July 14, monsoon rainfall across the country stood at ten percent above the fifty-year average (LPA), with northwest and central India receiving 31 percent and 36 percent above-normal rainfall, respectively. These above average rains have provided adequate soil moisture for Kharif sowing, resulting in a seven percent year-on-year increase in the total sown area. This growth has been driven by a 26 percent rise in the area under pulses—particularly mung bean—a 17 percent increase in cereals, led

by bajra (pearl millet), and an 11 percent expansion in oilseeds, primarily groundnut. Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Punjab have so far recorded the largest increases in the net sown area.

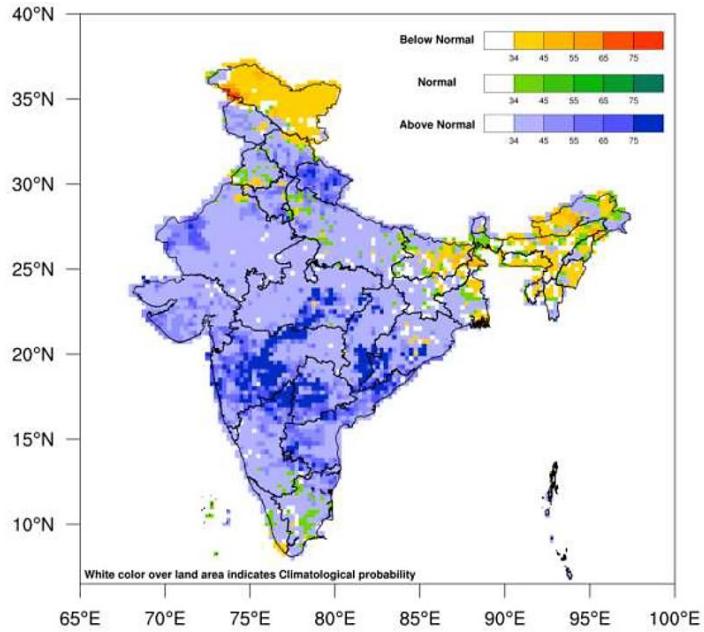
However, the area under oilseeds remains down two percent, and cotton planting is three percent lower than last year. In central India, the above average rainfall has prompted the government to issue advisories urging farmers to ensure proper drainage in crop fields to prevent waterlogging. Farmers in central and southern regions have also been advised to delay field operations, potentially resulting in sowing delays of up to two weeks. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a 56 percent probability of above-normal rainfall in the monsoon core zone, which covers the bulk of the country's rainfed agricultural areas.

Table 1. Kharif Crop 2025 Sowing Progress (in million hectares)

Crop	Area Sown as of July 11, 2025	Area Sown as of July 11, 2024	Normal Area (Five-year Average)	Y-o-Y Change	Change from Normal	Absolute Change
Rice	12.37	11.19	40.31	11%	-69%	1.18
Pulses	6.71	5.34	12.96	26%	-48%	1.37
Coarse Cereals	11.63	9.98	18.07	17%	-36%	1.65
Oilseeds	13.73	13.98	19.46	-2%	-29%	-0.25
Sugarcane	5.52	5.49	5.25	1%	5%	0.03
Jute and Mesta	0.55	0.57	0.66	-2%	-16%	-0.01
Cotton	9.28	9.52	12.95	-3%	-28%	-0.24
Total	**59.79**	**56.06**	**109.66**	**7%**	**-45%**	**3.73**

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

Figure 2. 2025 Monsoon (Jun/Sep) Rainfall Forecast

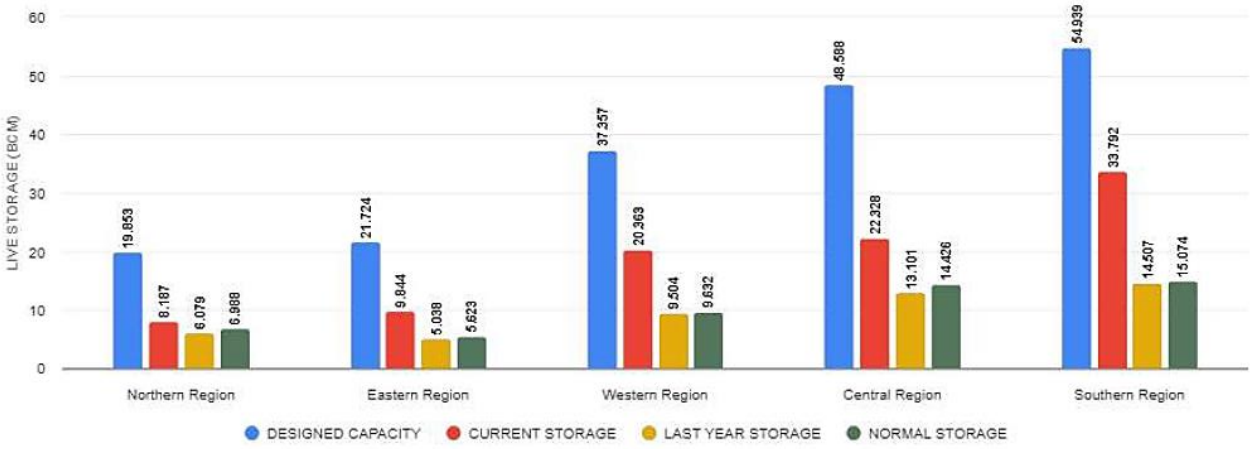


Source: [Indian Meteorological Department]

Reservoir Levels

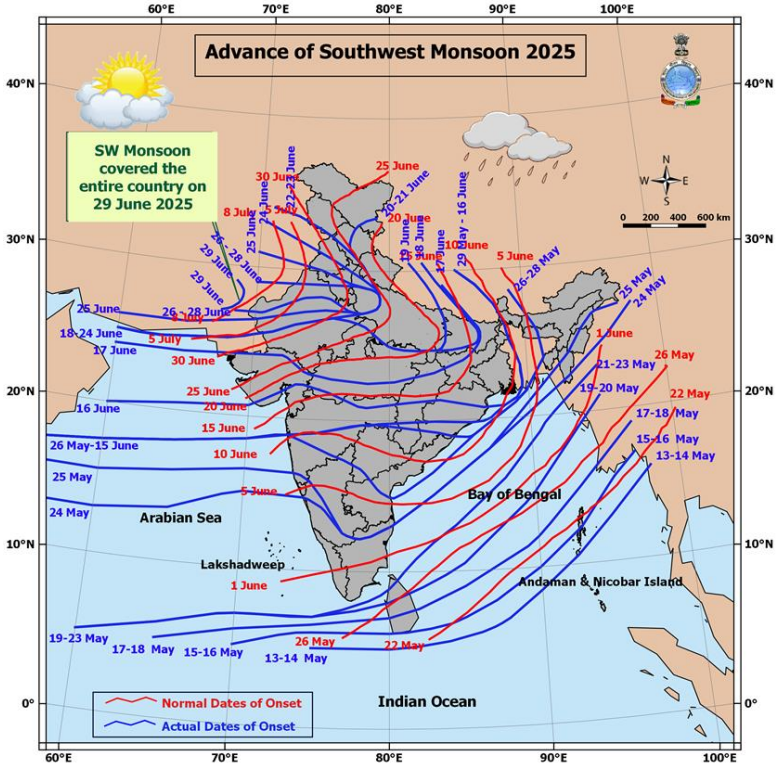
India's Central Water Commission monitors the live storage status of 161 reservoirs across the country on a weekly basis. According to the July 10 reservoir storage bulletin, live storage stands at 94.5 billion cubic meters (BCM), 52 percent of the total capacity as compared to 26 percent last year, and well above the ten-year average of 28 percent during the same period.

Figure 3. Regional Reservoir Storage (billion cubic meters – BCM) – July 10, 2025



Source: Ministry of Jal Shakti/Central Water Commission

Figure 4. Advance of Southwest Monsoon 2025



Attachments:

No Attachments.