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India

Agricultural Situation

Monsoon Update (2)

2008

Approved by:

Oliver Flake
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

A. Govindan

Report Highlights:

After excellent performance during the week ended June 18, monsoon activity diminished considerably during the week ending on June 25, with only 17 of the 36 weather subdivisions receiving normal or above normal rainfall against 26 the previous week. Rainfall was significantly below normal in the peninsular region, which if continued could impact planting of rice, sorghum, cotton, and peanut grown in this region.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
New Delhi [IN1]
[IN]

The summer monsoon, which set in on the southern tip of the country on May 31, progressed rapidly to cover almost the entire country by June 16, almost two weeks ahead of the normal date. After excellent performance during the week ending on June 18, when 26 of the 36 weather subdivisions received normal or above normal rainfall, monsoon activity diminished considerably during the week ending on June 25, with only 17 of the 36 weather subdivisions receiving normal or above normal rainfall. Rainfall was significantly below normal in the peninsular region. The all-India area weighted rainfall was 10 percent below normal at 39.7 mm during the week, compared with a 70% above normal the previous week. Cumulative rainfall during June 1 to June 25 was, however, normal or above normal in 27 of the 36 weather subdivisions (Figure 1). Figure 2 depicts the weekly rainfall since June 1.

Planting of the *kharif* (fall and early winter harvested) crops, which include mainly rice, coarse grains, pulses, peanut, soybeans, and cotton is reportedly progressing normally. For most crops, planting is likely to continue through mid-July and in exceptional cases up to late July and early August. The flood situation in the eastern states of Assam and Orissa has abated following a let up in the monsoon activity. However, poor rainfall during the week ending on June 25 in peninsular India, where the major crops grown are rice, sorghum, corn, and peanut, if continued could retard planting. Shortage of phosphatic fertilizers is also plaguing some of the states in this region. Many farmers in rice growing states are not happy with the ad hoc minimum support price for the MY 2008/09 paddy (rough rice) crop established by the government at Rs. 8,500 per ton (\$9 per cwt) for coarse varieties and Rs. 8,750 per ton (\$9.3 per cwt) for superior Grade A varieties against the current world price of \$16.9 per cwt.

Unusually heavy early season rains in the cotton belt of north India have raised concerns about higher incidents of pests and diseases in the cotton crop. Furthermore, in response to prevailing high soybean prices and its lower cost of production compared to cotton, many farmers in the Vidarbha region, the cotton belt of Maharashtra, have reportedly shifted from cotton to soybeans.

Figure 1. Cumulative Rainfall during June 1 to June 25

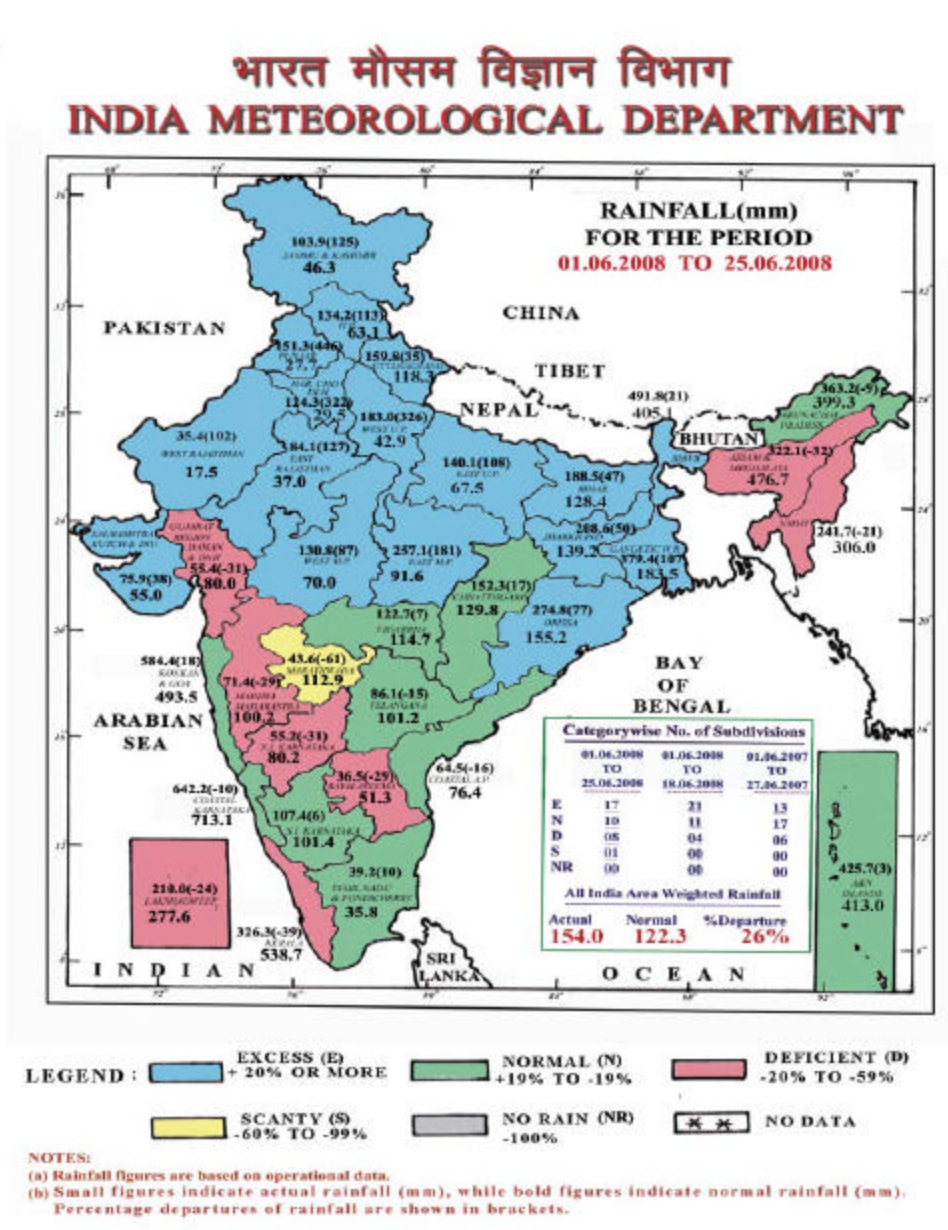






Figure 2. Weekly Rainfall since June 1

#	Weather Zones	JUNE			
		4	11	18	25
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Yellow	Green	Blue	Blue
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Cyan	Green	Blue	Green
3	Assam & Meghalya	Cyan	Green	Green	Green
4	Nagaland, Manipur & Mizoram	Cyan	Cyan	Green	Green
5	Sub Himalayan West Bengal	Cyan	Cyan	Blue	Blue
6	Gangetic West Bengal	Cyan	Blue	Cyan	Blue
7	Orissa	Cyan	Blue	Blue	Green
8	Jharkhand	Cyan	Blue	Blue	Cyan
9	Bihar	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue
10	East Uttar Pradesh	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue
11	Plains of W. Uttar Pradesh	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue
12	Uttaranchal	Cyan	Blue	Blue	Green
13	Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
14	Punjab	Cyan	Blue	Blue	Blue
15	Himachal Pradesh	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue
16	Jammu & Kashmir	Cyan	Blue	Blue	Cyan
17	West Rajasthan	Blue	Cyan	Blue	Blue
18	East Rajasthan	Green	Cyan	Blue	Blue
19	West Madhya Pradesh	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue
20	East MP	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue
21	Chhattisgarh	Yellow	Blue	Cyan	Green
22	Gujarat Region	Yellow	Cyan	Blue	Yellow
23	Saurashtra & Kutch	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Yellow
24	Konkan & Goa	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Yellow
25	Madhya Maharashtra	Green	Cyan	Cyan	Yellow
26	Marathwada	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow
27	Vidarbha	Blue	Blue	Green	Yellow
28	Coastal Andhra Pradesh	Blue	Blue	Cyan	Yellow
29	Telangana	Green	Blue	Green	Yellow
30	Raylaseema	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
31	Tamil Nadu	Cyan	Cyan	Green	Blue
32	Coastal Karnataka	Cyan	Blue	Cyan	Yellow
33	North Interior Karnataka	Cyan	Green	Green	Yellow
34	South Interior Karnataka	Blue	Cyan	Cyan	Green
35	Kerala	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
36	Lakshadweep	Cyan	Yellow	Yellow	Cyan

	Scanty or no rains (<-60% of normal)
	Deficient rains (-20% to -59% of normal)
	Normal rains (+19% to -19% of normal)
	Excess rains (>20% of normal)