

## Background Note

### **Briefing on Prevalent Drought situation in the Country and Remedial Measures undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.**

#### **Source- Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.**

About 56% of the net cultivated area of the country is rain-fed, accounting for 44% of food production. Thus Monsoon rainfall is crucial for Agriculture production and food security of the country, plus it has spin off effects on other sectors of the economy.

South West Monsoon (June to September) rainfall contributes to more than 75% of total rainfall of the country. Timely onset and spatial distribution of rainfall is crucial for cultivation of Kharif crops that account for about 90% of paddy, 70% of coarse cereals and 70% oilseed production of the country. Rainfall especially during the months of June and July are crucial for sowing of Kharif crops.

As per IMD Long Range Forecast for rainfall during second half (August & September) released on 03.08.2015, the rainfall over the country as a whole during the second half of the season is likely to be 84% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of  $\pm 8\%$ . The season (June to September) rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 88% of LPA with a model error of  $\pm 4\%$  as was forecast in June.

#### **2. Present Situation**

Subdivision-wise rainfall (mm) distribution during the monsoon season for the period from 01.06.2015 to 30.9.2015 is as follows:

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Actual Rainfall (mm)</b>	<b>Normal Rainfall (mm)</b>	<b>% Departure</b>
<b>Country as a whole</b>	760.6	887.5	- 14%
<b>Northwest India</b>	510.6	615.0	-17%
<b>Central India</b>	815.5	975.5	-16%

<b>South Peninsula</b>	605.7	716.1	- 15%
<b>East &amp; northeast India</b>	1317.5	1438.3	- 8%

### **3. ASSESSMENT OF 36 METEOROLOGICAL SUB-DIVISIONS (TILL 30.09.2015)**

In 1 meteorological sub-divisions comprising 6% of area of the country, rainfall is excess; in 18 sub-divisions comprising 55% of area, rainfall is normal; and in 17 sub- divisions comprising 39% of area, rainfall is deficient.

As per the report of the IMD there has been deficit rainfall for the period 01.06.2015 to 30.9.2015 in the sub-division of (Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura(-30%), Bihar(-28%), East Uttar Pradesh(-47%), West Uttar Pradesh(-43%), Uttarakhand(-28%), Haryana & Delhi(-37%), Punjab(-32%), Himachal Pradesh(-23%), East Madhya Pradesh((-29%), Gujarat Region(-27%), Konkan & Goa(-31%), Madhya Maharashtra(-33%), Marathwada(-40%), Telangana(-20%),Coastal Karnataka(-26%), North Interior Karnataka(-29%) and Kerala(-26%).

### **4. STEPS BEING TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE.**

#### **Provision for relief to the farmers in view of deficit monsoon**

To provide immediate relief to the farmers, in view of the deficit monsoon during kharif 2015, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a proposal for providing the following relief measures to the farmers:

- i. **Implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme** with an allocation of Rs.100 cr. It has been decided to provide diesel subsidy to the farmers to enable them to provide life saving irrigation through diesel pump sets in the drought and deficit rainfall areas to protect the standing crops. The farmers in the affected regions would be covered between South-West monsoon periods till 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. The scheme on Diesel Subsidy will be implemented with the participation of the State Governments/UT Administration, with a view to offset the cost of diesel used for pumping water for providing supplementary

irrigation/protective irrigation. The scheme will be applicable to such districts/talukas/areas where the rainfall deficit is more than 50% as on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, as reported by India Meteorological Department (IMD) or to such districts/talukas/areas, which have been declared as drought affected area by the respective State Govt./ UT Administration **or** areas with prolonged dry spell continuously for 15 days, i.e. scanty rainfall (deficit of 60% or more of normal) for any continuous 15 days period, after the onset date of Monsoon as per reports of IMD. It is proposed to provide 50% subsidy on the cost of diesel (Rs 2000 per hectare) to the affected farmers, limited to maximum of two hectares per farmer. Assistance so provided through subsidy shall be shared between the Government of India and the State Government/UT Administration concerned on 50:50 basis.

- ii. **Enhancement of ceiling on Seed Subsidy.** In order to partially compensate the farmers in the drought affected districts for the additional expenditure incurred in the sowing and /or purchasing appropriate varieties of drought resistant seeds it has been decided to raise the extant ceiling on seed subsidy by 50% for distribution in drought notified districts. The enhancement is valid till 31.12.2015.
- iii. **Implementation of interventions for saving perennial horticulture crops** with an additional allocation of Rs.150 cr. Appropriate input support measures will be provided to rejuvenate water stressed horticulture crops. The scheme is proposed to be implemented in all drought affected districts/ blocks in the country which are covered under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), being implemented by Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. Farmers in the drought affected districts/ blocks will be provided assistance @ Rs.6000/- per hectare as per cost norms for a maximum area of two ha per beneficiary for taking up appropriate combination of interventions. Assistance so provided through subsidy shall be shared between the Government of India and the State Government/UT Administration concerned on 50:50 basis.

- iv. **Implementation of Additional Fodder Development Programme (AFDP)** with an allocation of Rs.50 cr. Assistance will be provided for additional interventions for production of fodder for mitigating adverse impact of drought on livestock. Farmers in the drought affected districts/ blocks will be provided assistance @ Rs.3200/- per hectare as per cost norms for a maximum area of two ha per beneficiary for taking up additional production of fodder in these districts/blocks. Assistance so provided through subsidy shall be shared between the Government of India and the State Government/UT Administration concerned on 50:50 basis.

#### **Flexible allocation under RKVY and other centrally sponsored schemes.**

States have been advised to keep aside about 5 to 10% of fund allocated under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for undertaking appropriate interventions, if the situation so warrants, to minimize the adverse impact of an aberrant monsoon on the agriculture sector. 10% of the allocation under Centrally Sponsored Scheme may be utilized in flexible manner by the States to meet contingent requirement arising out of deficient rains.

#### **Crop contingency plan**

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare through ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad has prepared detailed crop Contingency Plans for 600 districts. States have been advised for preparing/ updating/ fine-tuning Contingency Plans for each district in consultation with CRIDA-ICAR and the State Agriculture Universities and to prepare location specific remedial measures based on these contingency plans in the event of late arrival of Monsoon/long dry spells/scanty rainfall/drought conditions e.g. tying up availability of seeds and other inputs for implementing the Contingency Plans. As seen from the experience of last year, these are highly useful in case of a deviant monsoon. These plans are available at the website of Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as well as CRIDA, Hyderabad.

#### **Advisories to the States**

State Governments have already been advised, vide Secretary, Agriculture & Cooperation's letter dated 07.05.2015 to initiate advance remedial action e.g. constructing water harvesting structures under MGNREGA and other such schemes, promoting agronomic practices for moisture conservation, promoting cultivation of less water consuming crops and restoring irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals, energizing tube-wells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps. Chief Secretaries of States have also been requested to ask APC/ Principal Secretary (Agriculture) to carry out periodic assessment of preparation for kharif crops, particularly contingency crops and also investment made in water conservation structure under various schemes like Integrated Watershed Management Programme(IWMP) to verify their utility in harvesting the rainfall.

### **Availability of seeds and other inputs for kharif, 2015**

A meeting with States to review preparedness of Kharif season, contingency plan and the availability of seeds, etc. was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2015 by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. Availability of these inputs is being monitored / reviewed on a continuous basis in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) Meetings being held in the Department. Weekly video conference with States is also being held to get first-hand information about State's preparedness and to advise States appropriately whenever needed.

### **SMS Advisory**

Ministry through m-kisan portal sends SMS advisory to registered farmers. These advisories include weather based SMS advisories, advisories to suggest measures to minimize adverse impact of extreme weather event. Ministry through various operators sent about 700 crores SMS in last one year. These SMS are sent by Indian Council for Agricultural Research(ICAR)/State Agricultural University(SAU), Kisan Vikash Kendra(KVK), Agro-Meteorological Field Units(AMFU) etc and district level State Govt. officials.

### **Visit to drought prone areas.**

The DAC & FW has nominated an Additional Secretary as Central Drought Relief Commissioner, who has visited, among others, States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Andhra

Pradesh to assess the preparedness of the states to tackle the drought like situation/deficit monsoon.

### **Crisis management plan for drought for the year 2015**

A Crisis Management Plan (CMP) for Drought has been in place and is available at the website of Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Min. of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The plan has also been updated recently in consultation with Stakeholder Ministries/Departments. Agriculture Minister has also requested all Chief Ministers, vide his letter dated 12.05.2015, to direct the officers concerned to expedite preparation of State level Management Plan on Drought.

### **Review Meetings with concerned Ministries**

Meetings were organized at the level of Agriculture Minister on 5<sup>th</sup> June and at the level of Secretary, DAC & FW on 21<sup>st</sup> May with all concerned departments such as India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Water Resources, Central Water Commission (CWC), Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Drinking water, Ministry of Food etc. They were requested to ensure all contingency plans are ready to tackle such an eventuality. They were also requested to issue instructions to all States for advance preparations.

A meeting was also held by Agriculture Minister on 9<sup>th</sup> September with all the concerned Ministries/Department to review the drought like situation due to deficit rainfall. Hon'ble Minister reviewed the action taken by the concerned departments and advised them to keep continuously in touch with the States and provide necessary assistance.

### **Video Conferencing**

A video conferencing was held on 03.09.2015 by Secretary, DAC &FW with the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka & Maharashtra to assess the situation on account of deficit rainfall in these States. In the video conference officers of State Governments informed that several areas in these States are under sever distress due to low rainfall and demanded to provide additional allocation for making drinking water available in drought affected area. The demand of States has been taken up with the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.

#### **5. i) Memorandum Submitted by State Government of Karnataka**

State Government of Karnataka has submitted a revised memorandum dt 16.9.2015 declaring 136 talukas as drought effected and seeking central assistance of Rs 3830.84 cr. Earlier the State Government had declared 126 talukas in 27 districts as drought affected in view of deficit rainfall during monsoon 2015 and submitted a Memorandum seeking financial assistance of Rs.3050.72 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare has constituted an Inter Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 under the leadership of Shri R. B. Sinha, Joint Secretary. IMCT has already visited Karnataka to assess drought and to recommend financial assistance from NDRF to State. On the basis of revised Memorandum submitted by the State Government and the report of the IMCT, relief from NDRF to State will be considered. Meanwhile, MHA has also been requested to provide immediate relief by releasing Rs 500 crore as advance from NDRF against the claim furnished by Karnataka.

#### **ii) Memorandum Submitted by State Government of Chhattisgarh**

State Government of Chhattisgarh has now submitted a Memorandum declaring 93 tehsils of 22 districts as drought effected seeking central assistance of Rs 4385.28 crore. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare will shortly depute an Inter Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) to assess the drought situation.

#### **6. SDRF/NDRF funds**

The State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief in the wake of natural calamities. Government of India supplements efforts of state Government with financial assistance. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from State Government in accordance with established procedure, keeping in view items and norms in vogue for assistance.

The 1<sup>st</sup> installment of SDRF has already been released to State Governments. Further, MHA as also Ministry of Finance has been requested to release the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of SDRF in advance to all such States where rainfall has been in deficit of 25% and above, esp to States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

#### **7. Revised Norms for assistance from NDRF/SDRF**

The norms provide assistance to the Farmers affected by notified natural calamities including drought. The norms of assistance, is reviewed comprehensively after the award of successive Finance Commission. The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued order on revised items and norms of assistance under SDRF/NDRF on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2015. In the revised norms assistance amount has been enhanced to farmers by 50% and included crop loss area of 33% & above (as against 50% and above earlier) for giving assistance under SDRF/NDRF.

#### **8. Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)**

The Government of India is committed to accord high priority to water security. Government has conceived the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with the objective of extending the coverage of irrigation in a focused manner, with end-to-end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities.

Deptt. of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare was assigned the responsibility of Nodal Department for implementation of PMKSY. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister has accorded approval of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in its meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2015. The scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore for a period of 5 years (2015-16 to 2019-20). Budget line to achieve synergy of resources has been created in the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources and Department of Land Resources, to implement PMKSY for the year 2015-16. Further, an outlay of Rs. 5300 crore has been made for the current financial year which includes Rs. 1800 crore for DAC(PMKSY- "Per Drop More Crop"); Rs. 1500 crore for DoLR (PMKSY- "Watershed Development"); Rs. 2000 crore for MoWR (Rs. 1000 crore for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) & Rs. 1000 crores for PMKSY- "Har Khet Ko Pani").



**Position of fund allocation and releases made:**

Release of Rs. 415 crore has been made under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and release of Rs. 461 crore under PMKSY(Har Khet Ko Pani) is under process by Ministry of Water Resources. Release of Rs. 900 crore under PMKSY(Watershed) has been made by Department of Land Resources. Under PMKSY(Per drop more crop), Rs. 422 crore for drips/sprinklers, Rs. 175 crore to supplement material component of approved water conservation/harvesting projects under MGNREGA in the most vulnerable rural blocks notified by Central Ground Water Board and Rs.246 crore for water conservation, harvesting and ground water recharge in the frequently drought affected districts, over exploited blocks and most vulnerable notified blocks have been made.

**9. Additional employment under MGNREGA**

The Cabinet has approved additional employment of 50 days over and above the 100 days for household under MGNREGA in the areas affected by natural calamities. In this context a letter has been sent to all Chief Secretaries to immediately send to us and the Ministry of Rural Development, a list of districts which are distressed due to drought, where the State Government proposes to start employment generation works under MGNREGA beyond 100 days.

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