

I/169228/2024

Hindustan Times- 10 April-2024

# Scorching summer may hit rabi harvest prospects

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**NEW DELHI:** At a time when the government is trying to tame food inflation, a spike in prices of key winter (Rabi) crops such as gram, paddy and maize is expected to play spoilsport. Agriculture analysts expect these crops to be hit by depleting water reservoir levels, above-normal temperatures and diseases, especially in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. However, prices of other rabi crops such as wheat and mustard are not expected to rise.

Farmers in the four southern states have reportedly seen wilting in Bengal gram (chana) and shrivelling of paddy and cobs in maize. Paddy farmers are reportedly facing drying crop in a few districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana surrounded by the Krishna belt. Similarly, poor cob formation with low grain weight has been observed in maize.

"Gram prices are expected to witness a rise on-year owing to an upswing in pulse prices for the year amid lower production of Kharif pulses," said Pushan Sharma, director-research, CRISIL Market Intelligence and Analytics. "However, in the near term, prices are expected to fall when the arrivals peak in the



**Paddy farmers face drying crop in a few districts of AP and Telangana.**

AP

market, which reportedly has been delayed due to the resowing of the crop in Maharashtra following November rainfall." Sharma added that in the northern states, gram yields are likely to remain at normal levels.

Chana prices in key mandis of Indore in Madhya Pradesh are quoted in the range of ₹5,900-7,500 a quintal, depending on the variety, against the minimum support price (MSP) of ₹5,440. All-India average chana dal prices on Tuesday were at ₹83.5 a kg, up 16.7% from a year ago, according to spot traders and the consumer affairs ministry.

Paddy and maize prices are also expected to rise. Already, at ₹44.7 a kg on Tuesday, all-India average price of rice in the retail market was 13.1% higher than

the corresponding period last year.

"As far as cereals are concerned, paddy and maize output are anticipated to be lower on account of the decline in acreages in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka West Bengal and Bihar owing to lower water availability," Sharma said. "Prices of these two commodities are anticipated to rise in the short term because of lower production and may stabilize if Kharif receives bountiful rainfall, which may increase the acreages."

Queries sent to departments of agriculture, consumer affairs, food and public distribution remained unanswered at press time.

Rabi crops are impacted by falling water levels in India's 150 major reservoirs, which stood at 35% as of 4 April, Central Water Commission data showed. The available water level, at 61.8 billion cubic metre (BCM), was 17% lower than a year ago, and 2% below the average of the past 10 years. Falling water reservoir level raises concerns not only about the water crisis in central and southern cities and hydro-power generation, but also the upcoming summer crop sowing cycle in irrigated areas, which may weigh on the gross value added (GVA) growth of agriculture and allied sectors, according to farm economists.



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Telangana Today - 10 April-2024

# Irrigation projects dry up in Adilabad

**Water levels dip to alarming levels worrying farmers, public**

SANTOSH PADALA

ADILABAD

Irrigation projects have almost dried up in the erstwhile Adilabad district, worrying both farmers and the public.

Water levels in various projects have dipped to alarming levels. As per information provided by officials, the water level in the Sathnala medium irrigation project in Jainath mandal of Adilabad district was 280.10 metres as against the storage capacity of 286.50 metres. Mathadiwagu project in Thamsi mandal has a water level of 271.65 metres compared to a storage capacity of 277.50 metres. The two projects account for 24,000 acres and 8,500 acres of ayacut respectively.

Likewise, the water level of the Kaddam Narayana Reddy project in the Nirmal district plummeted to 206 m out of the storage capacity of 213.36 m. The water level of the Swarna project in Sarangapur reached 358 m as against 360 m. The water level of Gaddennavagu was gauged to be 355 metres when compared to the ca-



*The dried up Sripadasagar Yellampalli project at Gudipet village in Hajipur mandal.*

capacity of 260 metres.

Meanwhile, the water level of the Kumram Bhim project of Kumram Bhim Asifabad district has declined to 236 metres as against the storage capacity of 243 metres. The water level of the Vattivagu, NTR, PP Rao, and Jagannathpur projects too have gone down. The water level of the Gollavagu, Nelwai, and Ralivagu projects in the Mancherial district too have dropped drastically.

The dip in the projects has become a cause for concern to farmers who are growing paddy, maize, and other crops expecting the water would be supplied to irrigate the crops.

"We are forced to depend on bore wells and other sources of irrigation if water is not provided to crops being raised in the Yasangi season," Bhaskar Reddy, a farmer from Kaddam mandal, told *Telangana Today*. Above all, municipalities

that are drawing bulk water from some of these projects are likely to face a drinking water crisis if the water level goes down further. For instance, Bellampalli, Asifabad, and Kaghaznagar municipalities depend on the water of the Kumram Bhim project. Similarly, six municipalities of Mancherial, Mandamarri, Naspur, Kyathanpalli, Luxettipet, and Chennur rely on water of Sripada Sagar Yellampalli in Hajipur mandal.

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# TS writes to Centre, KRMB for more water

## Wants little water left in NSP to be spared only for its drinking needs

STATE BUREAU

Hyderabad

Alarmed by the distress signals being received with the depleting storage levels in irrigation projects supporting the drinking water supply system, the State government has knocked on the doors of the Centre for additional releases from the Nagarjuna Sagar Project. It has already written to both the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Krishna River Management Board.

The State wanted the little left in the project to be spared only for its drinking water needs. But both the

Ministry of Jal Shakti and the KRMB are yet to respond to the special request made by the State. Though the State has requested given the gravity of the situation, the river management board did not respond so far, as it would also displease Andhra Pradesh in an election year, sources said.

The Board officials made it clear that Telangana had already exhausted its allotted quota of 35 tmc for the current water year. It had drawn more. Its additional requirements could only be discussed in the three-member committee meeting of the KRMB scheduled for

April 12. Officials from AP have also been firm on availing the entitled water to meet its drinking water needs. Andhra Pradesh was also left with less than three TMC of unutilised share after their recent drawls from the right canal. It started drawing water from the right canal once again on Monday and they were planning to avail another two tmc in the current spell. So far as the indents made for meeting drinking water needs are concerned, the board will accord priority irrespective of the States making the request, they added.



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Jan Satta - 10 April-2024

# इस बार मानसून कुछ देर से आएगा, पर बारिश सामान्य रहने की संभावना

जनसत्ता संवाददाता  
नई दिल्ली, 9 अप्रैल।

मौसम पूर्वानुमान संबंधी निजी एजेंसी रकॉर्डमेट ने संभावना जताई है कि इस बार मानसून के आने में थोड़ी देरी हो सकती है। हालांकि, मानसून 102 फीसद सामान्य रहेगा। इसमें पांच फीसद कमी या अधिकता हो सकती है। जून से सितंबर तक के चार महीने के दौरान औसत बारिश (एलपीए) 868.6 मिमी होने का अनुमान है। मानसून के दूसरे भाग में शुरुआती चरण की तुलना में भारी बारिश होगी।

भारतीय मौसम विभाग (आईएमडी) के वैज्ञानिकों ने भी इस साल अनुकूल मानसून रहने के शुरुआती संकेतों का पता लगाया है, जिसमें अल नीनो की स्थिति कम हो रही है और यूरेसिया में बर्फ का आवरण कम हो गया है। मौसम कार्यालय इस महीने के मध्य में मानसून का पूर्वानुमान जारी करेगा।

जून में एलपीए के मुकाबले  
95 फीसद बारिश संभव

रकॉर्डमेट के मुताबिक, जून में एलपीए के मुकाबले 95 फीसद बारिश हो सकती है। 20 फीसद संभावना सामान्य से अधिक बारिश और 30 फीसद संभावना सामान्य से कम बारिश की है। इसी तरह, जुलाई में एलपीए के मुकाबले 105 फीसद बारिश हो सकती है। जुलाई के एलपीए - 280.5 मिमी। इस माह 60 फीसद संभावना सामान्य बारिश की है, जबकि 20 फीसद संभावना सामान्य से अधिक बारिश की है। अगस्त में एलपीए के मुकाबले 98 फीसद बारिश हो

रकॉर्डमेट के प्रबंध निदेशक जतिन सिंह के मुताबिक, अब मानसून को प्रभावित करने वाले कारक इसके अनुकूल हो रहे हैं। यानी अल नीनो तेजी से ला नीना में तब्दील हो रहा है। इसके



फाइल फोटो

सकती है। इसमें 50 फीसद संभावना सामान्य बारिश की है, जबकि 20 फीसद संभावना सामान्य से अधिक बारिश की है। सितंबर में एलपीए के मुकाबले 110 फीसद बारिश हो सकती है।

अलावा सुपर एल नीनो का मजबूत ला नीना में बदलना ऐतिहासिक रूप से एक अच्छा मानसून पैदा करने वाला रहा है। हालांकि, मानसून का मौसम अल नीनो के शेष प्रभावों के कारण

नुकसान के जोखिम के साथ शुरू हो सकता है।

जतिन ने कहा कि मानसून को प्रभावित करने वाले अन्य कारक भी हैं। संकट की स्थिति में हिंद महासागर डिपेल ने लंबे समय तक मानसून को सुरक्षित रखा है। इस सीजन में सकारात्मक आइओडी का शुरुआती पूर्वानुमान बेहतर मानसून संभावनाओं के लिए ला नीना के साथ मिलकर काम करेगा। इसके बावजूद, अल नीनो से ला नीना में तेज परिवर्तन के कारण सीजन की शुरुआत में देरी होने की उम्मीद है।

रकॉर्डमेट ने पश्चिम, पश्चिम और उत्तर-पश्चिम क्षेत्र में काफी अच्छी बारिश होने की संभावना जताई है। वहीं, महाराष्ट्र और मध्य प्रदेश के मानसून बारिश आधारित मुख्य क्षेत्रों में भी पर्याप्त वर्षा होगी। बिहार, झारखंड, ओडीशा और पश्चिम बंगाल के पूर्वी राज्यों में जुलाई और अगस्त के दौरान कम वर्षा होने की संभावना है। पूर्वोत्तर भारत में मौसम के पहले दो महीनों के दौरान सामान्य से कम बारिश होने का अनुमान है।