

F.NO. 3-1/2007-NCFC – E&S
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION
(NATIONAL CROP FORECASTING CENTRE)

Room no. 344-A, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated, the 03rd April, 2008

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CROP WEATHER WATCH GROUP HELD
ON 28.03.2008.**

Presentations in the meeting

Rainfall & Temperature (As reported by India Meteorological Department, (IMD))

Pre-Monsoon Rainfall (March - May) during the week ending on 26th March, 2008

- **Isolated rain/thundershower** occurred over Jammu & Kashmir on 22nd & 23rd March, 08 and Andaman & Nicobar Islands during second half of the week.
- **Isolated/scattered rain/thundershower** occurred over East Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, North Orissa during many days of the week.
- **Scattered rain/thundershower** also occurred over West Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, Madhya Maharashtra during second half of the week and Northeastern States on most days of the week.
- **Scattered to fairly widespread rain/thundershower with isolated heavy falls** occurred over Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Lakshadweep on many days of the week.
- Mainly **dry weather** prevailed over remaining parts of the country.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **rainfall during the week** was excess / normal in 23 sub-divisions, deficient / scanty in 7 sub-divisions and no rain in 6 met sub-divisions.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **cumulative winter rainfall (1st March to 26th March, 2008)** was in excess / normal in 19; deficient / scanty in 13 sub-divisions and no rain in 4 met sub-divisions. .

Table-1: Weekly and Cumulative Rainfall in four regions of the country ¹

Region	Week Ending (26.03.08)				Cumulative (01.03.08 to 26.03.08)			
	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.
	Actual	Normal			Actual	Normal		
North-West India	0.2	16.7	-99	S	1.5	45.6	-97	S
Central India	14.8	2.6	463	E	16.1	7.8	105	E
South Peninsular India	80.4	3.7	2903	E	110.2	10.0	1008	E
North-East India	23.2	15.2	53	E	36.8	43.3	-15	N
Country as a whole	24.5	9.0	173	E	33.4	25.5	31	E

E: Excess, N: Normal, D: Deficient, S: Scanty, NR: No Rain.
Source: India Meteorological Department, New Delhi

Temperature

Minimum

- The minimum temperatures were **above normal by 2-6°C** over Northwest India, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, North Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim during the week.
- They were **below normal by 2-4°C** over North Interior Karnataka during second half of the week and near normal during first half of the week.
- They were **near normal** over the remaining parts of the country during the week.

1. North-west India - Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir.
Central India - Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Gujarat
South Peninsula - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep.
North-east India - Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Maximum

- Maximum temperatures were **above normal by 3-6°C** over Northwest India during the week.
- They were **near normal** over East Uttar Pradesh & Bihar on 20th, 22nd & 25th March, 08 and **above normal by 2-3°C** during remaining days of the week.
- They were **above normal by 3-4°C** over Rajasthan and Gujarat during the week.
- They were **above normal by 2-3°C** over north Madhya Maharashtra and near normal over remaining parts of Maharashtra during the week.
- Maximum temperatures were **above normal by 2-3°C** over Orissa & Jharkhand and **below normal by 6-10°C** on 23rd & 24th March, 08 and they were near normal during remaining days of the week. They were **below normal by 2-5°C** over West Bengal & Sikkim on 23rd March, 08 and near normal during remaining days of the week.
- They were **below normal by 2-4°C** over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on 20th, 22nd & 25th March, 08 and near normal during remaining days of the week. They were **near normal** over remaining parts of Northeastern states during the week.
- They were **below normal by 6-12°C** over East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha during 22nd-24th March, 08 and near normal during remaining days of the week. They were **below normal by 3-5°C** over Vidarbha from 22nd to 24th March, 08 and near normal during remaining days of the week. They were **2-4°C above normal** over West Madhya Pradesh during first half of the week and near normal during the second half of the week.
- They were **below normal by 4-8°C** over South India during the week.

Weather Outlook / Forecast for the period 28th March - 03rd April, 2008 by IMD & NCMRWF

Outlook for the Week Ending 02nd April, 2008

- *Isolated to scattered rain/thundershowers activity accompanied with isolated thundersquall is likely over Northeastern states during the week.*
- *A weak Western Disturbance is likely to approach over J&K and adjoining area during next 48 hrs. Under its influence isolated to scattered rainfall / thundershower is expected over hilly region of NW India.*
- *Isolated to scattered rainfall activity is likely over South Peninsular India.*
- *Gradual rise in maximum temperature over **Northwest India, Rajasthan** and adjoining **Central India**.*

Zone-wise Weather Forecast:

North & North-West India (J&K, HP, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, West UP)

- *Scattered rain is likely over J&K and H.P. during 29-31st March, 2008*
- *Mainly dry weather is likely over rest of the region.*

East & NE India (East UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa, NE States)

- *Scattered rainfall/thundershower is likely over Assam & Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.*
- *Isolated to Scattered rains/thundershowers are likely over West Bengal & Sikkim during 28th 31st April, 2008.*
- *Mainly dry weather is expected over rest of the region.*

Central India (MP, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha)

- *Isolated rainfall/thunder shower is expected over south Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha.*
- *Mainly dry weather is likely over rest of the region.*

South India (Tamil Nadu, AP, Kerala, Karnataka, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep)

- *Scattered to fairly widespread rainfall is likely over Andaman & Nicobar Islands.*
- *Isolated rain/thundershowers are likely over rest of the region.*

West India (Maharashtra, Other than Vidarbha, Gujarat, Rajasthan)

- *Isolated rainfall is likely over Konkan & Goa and South Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwara.*
- *Mainly dry weather is expected over rest of the region.*

Reservoir Status (For the week ending on 27.03.2008)

- The **Central Water Commission** monitors the live storage of **81** important/major reservoirs, having Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of **151.77** billion cubic meters (BCM), which is about 72% of total reservoir capacity in the country.
- Water stock in 81 major reservoirs decreased to 51.59 BCM. Current storage is less than the last year's position of 60.66 BCM and more than the average of last 10 year's storage of 44.31 BCM.

Table – 2: For 81 major reservoirs of the country

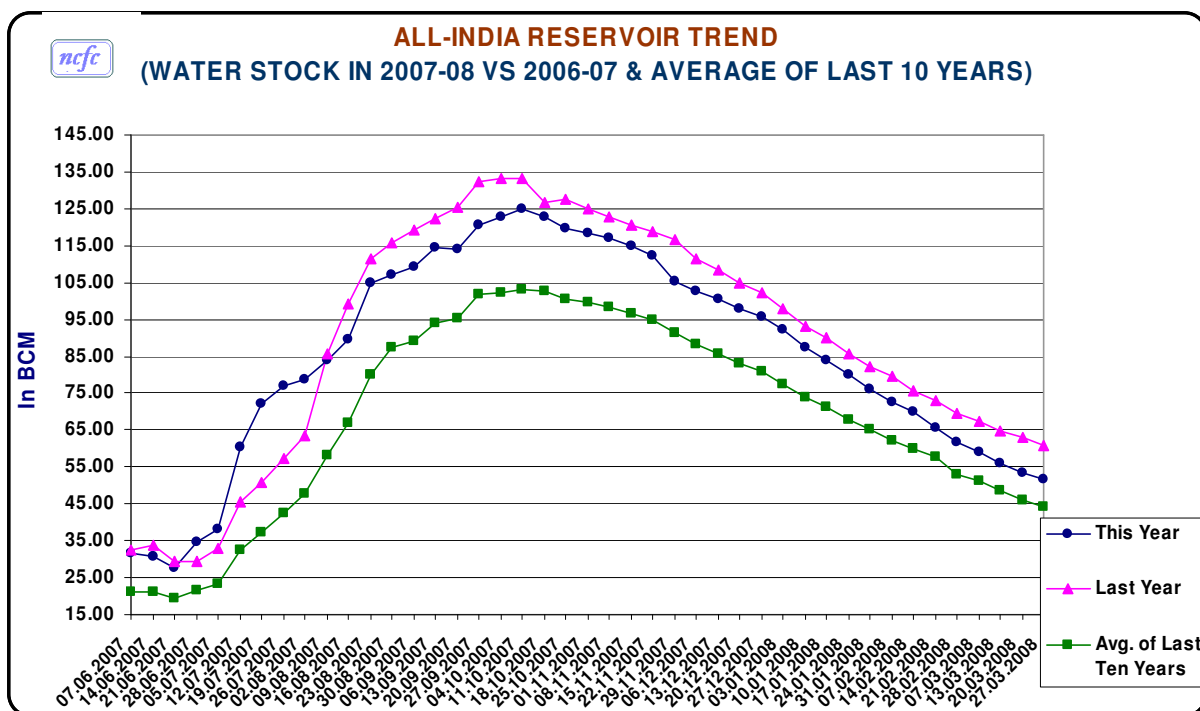
Period	Current Year's Storage as % of FRL*	Current Year's storage as % of last year	Current year as a % of 10 years average level
Current Week	34	85	116
Last Week	35	85	116

The percentage to live capacity at FRL was 40% on 27/03/2007, 34% on 27/03/2006, 22% on 27/03/2005 and 20% on 27/03/2004 .

* *Live storage as % to Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 151.77 Billion Cub. Mts.(BCM)*

Source: CWC

- There were 64 reservoirs having storage more than 80%, 6 reservoirs having storage between 50% to 80% of Normal Storage and 8 reservoirs having storage between 30% to 50% of Normal Storage.
- There were two reservoirs namely Konar (Jhar) and Yeldari (Maha) having storage below 30% of normal storage and one reservoir namely Sriramsagar (AP) having no live storage.



Source: Central Water Commission

Fertilizer Position:

Table – 3: Requirement, Availability, Sales and Stock position of Major Fertilizers Urea, DAP and MOP during 1st to 15th March, 2008

(in '000 Tonnes)

<i>Availability / Sale / Closing Stock</i>	<i>Urea</i>	<i>DAP</i>	<i>MOP</i>
<i>Requirement for March, 2008</i>	<i>1236</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>189</i>
<i>Availability during 1st to 15th Mar., 08</i>	<i>2496</i>	<i>419</i>	<i>218</i>
<i>Sales during 1st to 15th Mar., 08</i>	<i>328</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Closing Stock as on 15.03.2008</i>	<i>2168</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>127</i>

Source: Fertilizer Division (DAC) / Deptt. of Fertilizer

Pest & Diseases:

- The incidence of pest & diseases generally remained below Economic Threshold Level (ETL) for most of the crops.
- No shortage of Chemical / Bio-pesticides reported from any State / UT.

Table:4

All India Crop Situation - Rabi (2007-08) as on 28-03-2008							
Crop Name	Normal Area	Area sown reported			Change vis-à-vis prev. year		Remarks
		This Year	% of Normal	Last Year	Absolute	Percentage	
Wheat	262.00	277.48	105.9	282.14	-4.66	-1.7	Bih (-0.6, -2.3), Guj (+1.9, +16.1), Har (+1.0, +4.0), MP (-5.6, -13.1), Maha(+0.2, +1.8), Raj (+0.3, +1.2), UP (-2.4, -2.6), WB (+0.5, +14.3)
Rice	37.32	42.84	114.8	40.70	2.14	5.3	AP (+0.7, +5.5), Ass (+0.1, +3.1), Kar (+0.7, +23.3), WB (+0.5, +3.6)
Jowar	50.29	46.74	92.9	49.39	-2.65	-5.4	AP(-0.4, -15.2), Kar (-0.2, -1.3), Maha (-1.8, -5.8), TN (-0.3, -6.7)
Maize	7.45	10.70	143.6	10.28	0.42	4.1	AP (+0.8, +39.3), Bih (-0.6, -15.1), Guj (+0.1, +17.9)
Barley	6.53	7.57	115.9	7.88	-0.31	-3.9	MP (-0.2, -24.1), Raj (-0.1, -3.0)
Total Coarse Cereals	64.27	68.16	106.0	70.57	-2.41	-3.4	AP (+0.4, +8.8), Bih (-0.6, -14.6), Kar (-0.3, -2.4), MP (-0.2, -23.2), Maha (-1.8, -5.8)
Total Cereals	363.59	388.48	106.8	393.41	-4.93	-1.3	
Gram	66.02	80.38	121.7	84.02	-3.64	-4.3	Ass(-0.4, -100.0), Chhat (+0.3, +10.9), Kar (-0.6, -7.8), MP (-2.9, -10.6), Maha (+0.4, +3.2), Raj (+1.3, +11.1), UP (-2.0, -24.6)
Lentil	14.44	14.01	97.0	15.46	-1.46	-9.4	Bih (-0.3, -10.1), MP (-0.4, -7.9), UP (-0.8, -12.2)
Peas	7.18	6.76	94.2	8.22	-1.47	-17.9	MP (-0.5, -19.9), UP(-1.0, -24.2)
Kulthi(Horse Gram)	3.20	5.69	177.8	6.24	-0.55	-8.7	Kar (-1.0, -43.5), TN (+0.5, +143.2)
Urad	7.53	8.32	110.5	8.39	-0.07	-0.8	AP (-0.2, -4.9), Ass (+0.4, +100.0), Ori (-0.2, -6.8), TN (-0.1, -6.0)
Moong	6.04	6.58	108.9	7.24	-0.66	-9.2	AP (-0.2, -15.9), Ass (+0.1, +100.0), Ori (-0.5, -9.8), TN(-0.3, -31.8), WB (+0.2, +100.0)
Lathyrus	6.49	5.24	80.8	4.50	0.74	16.5	Chhat (+0.3, +6.5), WB (+0.5, +100.0)
Total Pulses	113.53	133.80	117.9	142.25	-8.45	-5.9	AP (-0.4, -3.1), Chhat (+0.7, +7.7), Jhar (-0.4, -31.7), Kar (-1.6, -14.9), MP (-3.7, -10.5), Maha(+0.4, +2.7), Raj (+1.3, +10.6), UP (-3.8, -20.3)
Total Foodgrains	477.12	522.28	109.5	535.66	-13.38	-2.5	
Rapeseed & Mustard	59.28	59.63	100.6	66.10	-6.47	-9.8	Ass (-0.2, -6.8), Bih (-0.3, -15.8), Guj (-0.2, -5.3), Har (-0.8, -12.7), MP (-1.6, -22.4), Raj (-4.2, -14.4), UP (+0.2, +3.0), WB (+0.2, +3.4)
Groundnut	8.16	12.45	152.6	10.59	1.86	17.6	AP (+0.5, +20.0), Guj (+0.6, +55.3), Kar (+0.1, +6.9), TN (+0.6, +23.8)
Safflower	3.74	3.15	84.2	3.41	-0.26	-7.6	Kar (-0.1, -14.9), Maha (-0.2, -7.3),
Sunflower	12.16	11.20	92.1	12.65	-1.45	-11.5	AP (-0.2, -4.9), Har (+0.1, +60.0), Kar (-1.0, -16.6), Maha (-0.6, -26.2), TN (+0.2, +137.5)
Sesamum	16.77	2.71	16.2	2.77	-0.06	-2.2	AP (-0.1, -28.6), TN (-0.2, -31.7), WB (+0.2, +13.6)
Linseed	4.70	4.90	104.3	5.20	-0.30	-5.8	MP(-0.2, -14.6), UP (-0.1, -24.4)
Total Oilseed (Nine)	88.04	95.62	108.6	101.88	-6.26	-6.1	Bih (-0.3, -14.3), Guj (+0.5, +11.2), Har (-0.7, -10.9), Kar (-1.0, -11.7), MP (-1.4, -15.5), Maha (-1.0, -16.0), Ori (+0.2, +3.9), Raj (-4.2, -14.4), TN (+0.7, +18.9), WB (+0.3, +5.2)
All- Crops	565.15	617.90	109.3	637.54	-19.64	-3.1	

Source: Crops & TMOP Divisions, DAC

Price Situation of Agricultural Commodities as submitted by the Department of Consumer Affairs

Inflation

The all-commodity inflation rate based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) on a point to point basis for the week ending 15.03.2008 increased by 0.76% percentage points to 6.68% from the previous week level of 5.92%. The inflation rate was 6.56% during the corresponding period last year.

The inflation rate in respect of (a) Primary articles group increased by 0.33% to 7.76%, (b) Manufactured products group by 0.87% to 6.27% and (c) Fuel, power, light and lubricant group by 0.93% to 6.56%. The share of these three groups in inflation during this weekend stood in the order of 26.12%, 52.36% and 21.34%.

Table – 5: Retail prices of Essential Agricultural Commodities at Delhi

(Rs. Per Kg.)						
Items	Current price 27.03.08	1 week ago 19.03.08	Fortnight ago 13.03.08	1 month ago 27.02.08	1 year ago 28.03.07	% Variation 27.03.08 over 28.03.07
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Rice	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	15.00	20.0
Wheat	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	12.00	8.3
Atta	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	13.00	7.7
Gram Dal	38.00	38.00	39.00	36.00	32.00	18.8
Tur Dal	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	35.00	20.0
Sugar	18.00	17.50	18.00	17.00	18.00	Steady
Groundnut Oil	121.00	121.00	121.00	121.00	98.00	23.5
Mustard Oil	79.00	82.00	87.00	71.00	55.00	43.6
Vanaspati	79.00	79.00	79.00	68.00	56.00	41.1
Tea (Loose)	107.00	108.00	109.00	108.00	110.00	-2.7
Milk	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	18.00	11.1
Potato	8.00	8.50	9.00	8.50	8.00	Steady
Onion	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	13.00	-23.1

- Source : Department of food and Civil Supplies, Delhi

During the week, prices of the many essential agricultural commodities namely Rice, Wheat, Atta, Gram Dal, Tur dal, Groundnut Oil, Vanaspati and Milk remained at the same level as they were last week. Rise in prices was noted in **Sugar** (50 paise per kg, 2.9%) and **Onion** (Re.1.00 per kg, 11.1%). Fall in prices was noted in **Mustard oil** (Rs. 3.00 per kg, 3.7%), **Tea (Loose)** (Rs. 1.00 per kg, 0.9%) and **Potato** (50 paise per kg, 5.9%)

As compared to the last year, prices of Sugar and Potato remained steady. Increase in prices was noted in **Rice** (Rs. 3.00 per kg, 20.0%), **Wheat** (Re. 1.00 per kg, 8.3%), **Atta** (Re. 1.00 per kg, 7.7%), **Gram dal** (Rs. 6.00 per kg, 18.8%), **Tur dal** (Rs. 7.00 per kg, 20.0%), **Mustard Oil** (Rs. 24.00 per ltr., 43.6%), **Groundnut Oil** (Rs. 23.00 per ltr, 23.5%), **Vanaspati** (Rs. 23.00 per ltr, 41.1%) and **Milk** (Rs. 2.00 per ltr, 11.1%). Decrease in price of **Tea (Loose)** (Rs. 3.00 per kg, (-)2.7%), and **Onion** (Rs. 3.00 per kg, (-)23.1%) was observed.

Procurement :**Table – 6: Progressive procurement of Rice as on 28.03.2008 (lakh tonnes)**

State	Total procurement in marketing season 2006-07 (Oct. – Sept.)	Progressive Procurement as on 28.03.2008	
		In Marketing season 2007-2008	In Marketing season 2006-2007
Andhra Pradesh	53.27	36.56	26.48
Chhattisgarh	28.58	26.92	24.91
Haryana	17.73	15.69	17.69
Kerala	1.51	0.88	0.77
Maharashtra	0.96	1.22	0.89
Orissa	19.93	15.91	13.36
Punjab	78.28	77.57	77.85
Tamil Nadu	10.78	6.53	9.75
Uttar Pradesh	25.49	25.60	20.98
Uttaranchal	1.76	1.44	1.59
West Bengal	6.44	3.72	4.75
All-India	250.75	216.76	204.06