

**F.NO. 3-1/2008-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 31st July, 2008

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CROP WEATHER WATCH GROUP HELD
ON 25.07.2008.**

Summary observations of the Group on Agenda Items.

- *Most parts of the country received deficient rainfall during the week except for the North-Eastern region, Gangetic plains, Tamil Nadu, Rayalseema and Coastal Andhra Pradesh.*
- *Fairly widespread rain/thundershowers occurred over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, West Bengal & Sikkim, Bihar, East Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Konkan & Goa, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Vidarbha during the week.*
- *Rainfall received during the period 1st June to 23rd July, 08 was 370.0 mm i.e. around 2% less than normal. It was excess/normal in 21 met sub-divisions and deficient/scanty in 15 met sub-divisions. While significant amount of rainfall has been received in North-west India (43% above normal), it was less than normal in Central India (-15%) and South Peninsula (-32%). In North-east India, it was marginally above normal (3%).*
- *Meteorological Subdivisions with deficient / scanty rainfall include Assam & Meghalaya (-26%), NMMT (-26%), Gujarat Region (-36%), Saurashtra & Kutch (-35%), Konkan & Goa (-24%), Madhya Maharashtra (-49%), Marathwada(-62%), Vidarbha (-35%), Coastal Andhra Pradesh (-22%), Telangana (-30%), Rayalseema (-22%), Coastal Karnataka (-38%), North Interior Karnataka (-53%), South Interior Karnataka (-28%) and Kerala (-43%).*
- *Reported have been received that during last 3-4 days some rainfall has taken place in rain deficient sub-divisions of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Besides this, IMD has also forecasted improvement in rainfall position in a large number of sub-divisions in the coming week also. Improved prospects of rainfall is therefore likely to increase the area sown under pulses and oilseeds in the next 2 weeks in these states.*
- *As on 25.7.08, area sown under all kharif crops at All India level has been reported to be 589.83 lakh hectares as compared to 593.07 lakh hectares in the corresponding period of 2007. Increase in area sown has been reported under Rice, Bajra and Soyabean. Area sown has declined for Jowar, Cotton, Sugarcane, Oilseeds and Pulses. A comparative statement on area sown under various kharif crops is attached.*

- *Seed position is reported to be comfortable. Arrangements have been made to make available seeds of suitable crops varieties where late sowing may be required due to deficient rainfall.*
- *The incidence of pests & diseases generally remained below Threshold Level (TL) for most of the crops.*
- *The all-commodity inflation rate based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) on a point to point basis for the week ending 12.07.2008 decreased by 0.02 percentage points to 11.89% from the previous week's level of 11.91%. The inflation rate was 4.76% during the corresponding period last year.*
- *The foodgrains inflation rate based on WPI for the week ending 12.07.2008 decreased to 5.57% from the previous week's level of 5.74%. Among the foodgrains, inflation for Wheat has declined by 1.70% and stood at 5.06% and rice has increased to 8.17% i.e. a decrease of 0.10% points.*
- *The non-food items inflation based on WPI marginally increased to 16.53% from the previous week's level of 16.52% and for the food items 5.41% from the previous week's level of 5.02%.*

Presentations in the meeting

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

Monsoon Rainfall (June - September) during the week ending on 23rd July, 2008

- **Widespread/ fairly widespread rain/thundershower** occurred over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, West Bengal & Sikkim, Bihar, East Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during many days of the week.
- **The southwest Monsoon was active/vigorous** for many days over Bihar & East Uttar Pradesh and for a few days over the remaining sub-divisions.
- **Scattered to fairly widespread rainfall** also occurred over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura during the week.
- **Fairly widespread rainfall** occurred over Vidarbha during second half of the week and over Konkan & Goa, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands during many days of the week.
- **Isolated to scattered rain/thundershower** occurred over remaining parts of the country during many days of the week.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **rainfall during the week** was excess / normal in 13 sub-divisions and deficient / scanty in 23 sub-divisions met sub-division.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **cumulative rainfall (1st June to 23rd July, 2008)** was in excess / normal in 21 and deficient / scanty in 15 sub-divisions.

Table-1: Weekly and Cumulative Rainfall in four regions of the country¹

Region	Week Ending (23.07.08)				Cumulative (01.06.08 to 23.07.08)			
	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.	(in mm)		Deviation (%)	Category
	Actual	Normal			Actual	Normal		
North-West India	36.2	54.3	-33	D	320.3	223.7	43	E
Central India	26.5	74.1	-64	S	348.1	409.0	-15	N
South Peninsular India	37.3	54.0	-31	D	219.3	322.8	-32	D
North-East India	110.5	96.4	15	N	697.7	678.9	3	N
Country as a whole	45.0	67.6	-33	D	370.0	378.1	-2	N

E

E: Excess, N: Normal, D: Deficient, S: Scanty, NR: No Rain.

Source: India Meteorological Department, New Delhi

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.

Weather Outlook / Forecast for the period 25th July - 02nd August, 2008 by IMD

Outlook for the Week Ending 30th July, 2008

- *Gradual Southward shifting of monsoon trough likely. Consequently, a low pressure area is likely to form over West-central and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal around 27th July, 2008.*
- *Under this scenario, the rainfall activity is likely to decrease gradually along the foothills, adjoining Northern plains and Northeastern States.*
- *The rainfall activity is likely to increase over the South and adjoining Central India, specially North Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.*

Warning:

- *Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Kerala, Coastal Karnataka, Konkan & Goa, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.*

Zone-wise Weather Forecast:

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

- *Rain/thundershowers are likely at many places likely over Uttarakhand and, West Uttar Pradesh during next 48 hours and decrease thereafter. Isolated rain/thundershowers are likely over Punjab and Haryana during next 3 days and increase thereafter. Rain/thundershower are likely over the rest region.*

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

- *Rain/thundershowers are likely at many places over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Bihar and East UP during next 24 hours and decrease thereafter.*
- *Rain/thundershower are likely at a few places over Orissa during next 24 hours and increase thereafter. Rain/thundershower are likely at a few places over the rest region.*

North-East India (Arunachal Pradesh, NMM&T, Assam & Meghalaya)

- *Rain/thundershowers are likely at many places over the region during next 48 hrs. and decrease thereafter.*

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

- *Rain/thundershowers are likely at many places over Coastal Karnataka, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands and Telangana. Rain/thundershowers are likely at many places over Coastal Andhra Pradesh during next 4 days and decrease thereafter. Rain/thundershowers are likely at a few places over Tamil Nadu, South Interior Karnataka. Rain/thundershowers are likely at a few places over North Interior Karnataka during next 3 days and decrease thereafter.*

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

- *Rain/thundershowers are likely at many places over Konkan & Goa. Rain/thundershowers are likely at a few places over Gujarat Region, Madhya Maharashtra and Marathawada during next 24 hours and increase thereafter. Isolated rain/thundershowers are likely over Saurashtra & Kutch during next 48 hours and increase thereafter. Isolated rain/thundershowers over rest region.*

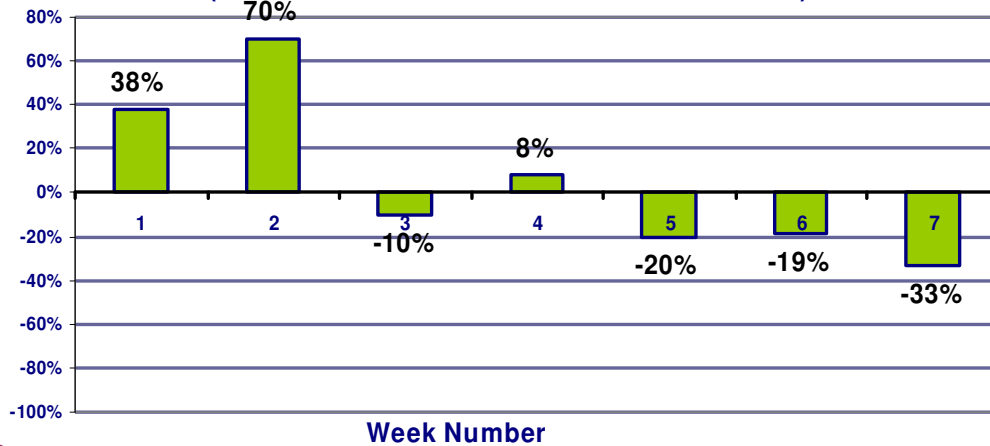
Central India (MP, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha)

- *Rain/thundershowers are likely at many places over East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha. Rain/thundershowers are likely at a few places over rest region during next 24 hours and increase thereafter.*

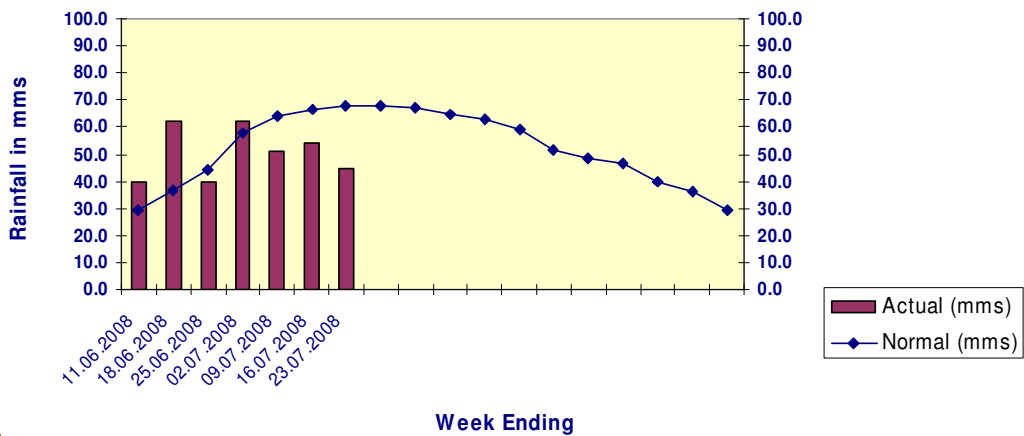


Weekly Percentage Rainfall Deviation from Normal(LPA)- All India

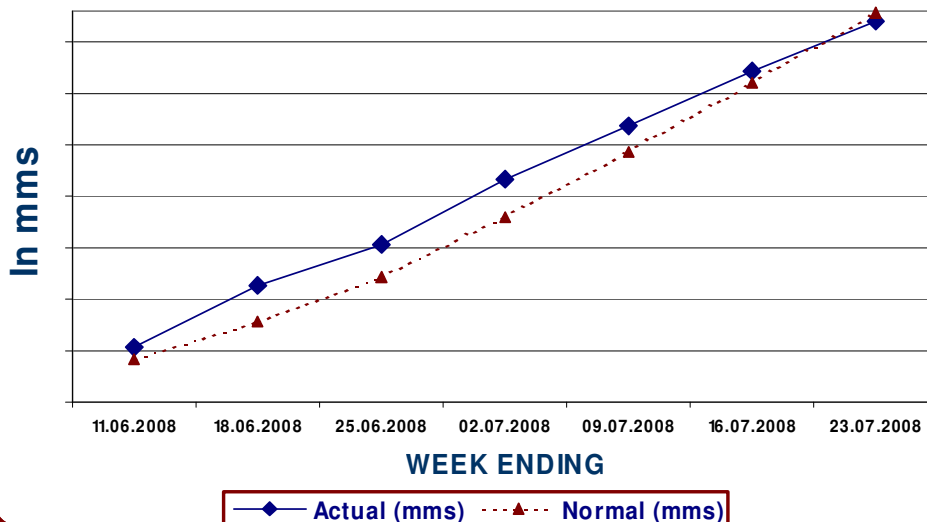
(Monsoon 2008 - from 01.06.2008 to 23.07.2008)



Weekly Rainfall Distribution in Monsoon 2008 - All India



Trend of All India Cumulative Rainfall Actual vs Normal in Monsoon 2008



Reservoir Status (For the week ending on 24.07.2008)

- 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 increased to 44.16 BCM. Current storage is less than the last year's position of 81.28 BCM and the average of last 10 year's storage of 45.65 BCM.

Table – 2: For 81 major reservoirs of the country

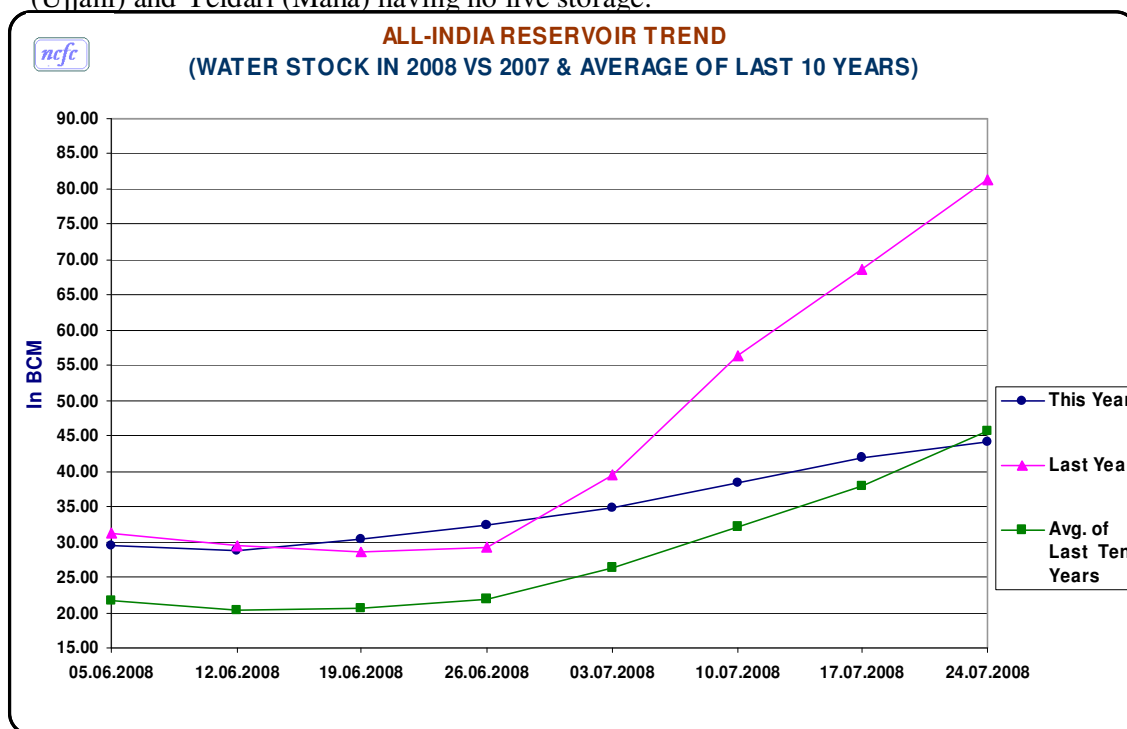
Period	Current Year's Storage as % of FRL*	Current Year's storage as % of last year	Current year as a % of 10 years average level
Current Week	29	54	97
Last Week	28	61	110

The percentage to live capacity at FRL was 54% on 24/07/2007, 39% on 24/07/2006, 28% on 34/07/2005 and 20% on 24/07/2004 .

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

Source: CWC

- There were 45 reservoirs having storage more than 80%, 14 reservoirs having storage between 50% to 80% of Normal Storage and 12 reservoirs having storage between 30% to 50% of Normal Storage.
- There were seven reservoirs namely Dantiwada (Guj), Sholayar (TN), Upper Kolab (Ori), Balimela (Ori), Upper Indravati (Ori), Girna (Maha) and Idukki (Kerala) having storage below 30% of normal storage and three reservoirs namely Sriramsagar (AP), Bhima (Ujjani) and Yeldari (Maha) 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 April to 24th July, 2008

(in '000 Tonnes)

<i>Availability / Sale / Closing Stock</i>	<i>Urea</i>	<i>DAP</i>	<i>MOP</i>	<i>Complex</i>
<i>Requirement</i>	<i>9032</i>	<i>2819</i>	<i>1088</i>	<i>3116</i>
<i>Availability during 1st April to 24th July, 08</i>	<i>7983</i>	<i>2626</i>	<i>1177</i>	<i>1814</i>
<i>Sales during 1st April to 24th July, 08</i>	<i>5608</i>	<i>2347</i>	<i>1046</i>	<i>1554</i>
<i>Closing Stock as on 24.07.2008</i>	<i>2375</i>	<i>279</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>260</i>
<i>Requirement for August, 2008</i>	<i>2590</i>	<i>707</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>924</i>

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

Pest & Diseases:

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

Table:4

All India Crop Situation - Kharif (2008-09) as on 25-07-2008							
Crop Name	Normal Area	Area sown reported			Change vis-à-vis prev. year		Remarks
		This Year	% of Normal	Last Year	Absolute	Percentage	
Rice	391.17	170.06	43.5	143.06	27.0	18.9	Ass(-2.8, -26.1), Bih(+2.4, +27.9), Chhat(+4.3, +25.0),Guj(-0.5, -40.2), Har(+1.2, +14.4), Jhar (-1.2, -36.6), Kar (-0.3, -8.0), MP (+2.1, +44.0), Maha(-2.0, -25.4), Ori (+1.2, +6.3), TN (+0.6, +81.1), UP (+21.9, +150.4)
Jowar	42.08	13.39	31.8	18.48	-5.1	-27.5	AP (-1.0, -74.6), Har (+0.2, +22.7), Kar (-0.9, -31.9), MP (-0.5, -21.2), Maha(-6.6, -77.8), Raj (+3.0, +252.1), UP (+0.5, +62.4)
Bajra	91.81	40.34	43.9	32.03	8.3	25.9	Guj (-2.3, -61.2), Har (+1.5, +31.9), Kar (-2.6, -82.5), MP (+0.5, +234.8), Maha (-6.9, -97.2), Raj (+17.6, +183.3), UP (+2.1, +134.6)
Maize	63.71	40.96	64.3	42.57	-1.6	-3.8	AP(-2.1, -51.9), Bih(-0.7, -25.7), Guj(-0.9, -49.5), Jhar(-0.4, -23.9), Kar (-2.9, -38.0), MP (+1.2, +32.1), Maha (-3.1, -82.3), Raj (+5.5, +360.8), UP (+2.4, +43.6)
Total Coarse Cereals	226.54	99.48	43.9	96.17	3.3	3.4	AP (-2.6, -48.8), Bih (-0.7, -25.7), Guj (-3.1, -53.6), Har (+1.7, +31.2), Jhar (-0.4, -23.9), Kar (-7.1, -48.4), MP (+1.4, +22.4), Maha (-16.7, -85.0), Ori (-0.4, -22.0), Raj (+26.1,+211.7), UP (+5.2, +66.4)
Total Cereals	617.71	269.54	43.6	239.23	30.3	12.7	
Tur	34.60	19.60	56.7	24.44	-4.8	-19.8	AP (-1.5, -54.2), Chhat(-1.0, -60.6), Guj (+0.3, +14.1), Kar (-1.5, -48.1), MP (+0.5, +18.2), Maha (-3.0, -31.6), Ori (+0.2, +56.1), UP(+1.4, +84.6)
Urad	25.31	14.59	57.7	17.03	-2.4	-14.3	Chhat (-1.3, -72.4), Guj (+0.3, +41.7), Kar (-0.9, -55.0), Maha (-2.7, -53.9), Ori (+0.4, +165.6), Raj (+0.4 +32.5), UP (+1.8, +143.5)
Moong	26.16	17.02	65.1	22.98	-6.0	-25.9	AP (-1.6, -57.2), Guj (-0.4, -34.4), Kar (-2.6, -61.6), Maha (-2.6, -43.7), Ori (+0.2, +100.0), Raj (+0.8, +11.7)
Others	22.64	12.60	55.7	13.30	-0.7	-5.3	
Total Pulses	108.71	63.82	58.7	77.75	-13.9	-17.9	AP (-3.3, -52.6), Bih (-0.4, -48.1), Chhat (-3.1, -70.3), Guj(-0.3, -6.2), Kar (-5.2, -53.6), MP (+0.4, +4.2), Maha (-8.7, -40.9), Ori (+0.9, +92.1), Raj (+1.8, +11.1), TN (+0.4, +100.0), UP (+3.4, +113.8)
Total Foodgrains	726.42	333.36	45.9	316.98	16.4	5.2	
Groundnut	53.54	34.88	65.1	38.63	-3.8	-9.7	AP (-2.3, -30.2), Guj (+1.4, +8.4), Kar (-2.1, -43.7), MP (-0.1, -5.1), Maha (-1.1, -38.1), Raj (+0.4, +12.5)
Soyabean	72.54	85.35	117.7	77.79	7.6	9.7	AP (+0.2, +19.8), Chh (+0.2, +18.6), Kar (+0.2, +15.4), MP (+5.9, +13.3), Maha (-1.2, -5.1), Raj (+2.4, +41.7)
Sunflower	7.59	1.67	22.0	5.10	-3.4	-67.3	AP (-0.4, -62.7), Kar (-2.6, -66.8), Maha (-0.4, -85.7)
Sesamum	14.48	10.52	72.7	10.98	-0.5	-4.2	AP (-0.3, -43.4), Guj (-1.2, -39.3), Kar (-0.4, -48.1), MP (+0.4, +27.1), Maha (-0.5, -62.5), Raj (+1.4, +64.6), UP (+0.3, +23.5)
Niger	3.83	0.56	14.6	0.77	-0.2	-27.3	
Castor	7.01	1.48	21.1	3.59	-2.1	-58.8	
Total Oilseed (Nine)	158.97	134.45	84.6	136.88	-2.4	-1.8	AP (-4.2, -35.4), Chhat(+0.2, +11.7), Guj (-0.7, -3.5), Kar (-5.0, -44.1), MP (+6.2 +13.0), Maha (-3.4, -12.1), Raj (+4.3, +38.5), UP (+0.3, +11.9)
Cotton	83.73	69.74	83.3	79.23	-9.5	-12.0	AP (-1.0, -11.8), Guj (-1.4, -6.8), Har (-0.7, -13.5), MP (-0.2, -2.9), Maha (-3.7, -14.1), Pun (-0.4, -7.3), Raj (-1.9, -50.8)
Sugarcane	41.47	43.67	105.3	52.95	-9.3	-17.5	AP (-0.7, -29.6), Bih (+0.4, +12.7), Har (-0.4, -26.7), Kar (-0.5, -18.0), Maha(-3.9, -35.7), Pun (-0.3, -21.5), TN (-0.3, -7.3), UP (-3.0, -13.7), Uttaran(-0.3, -19.5)
Jute	8.24	8.61	104.5	7.03	1.6	22.5	Bih (+0.3, +29.3), WB (+1.1, +21.6)
All- Crops	1018.83	589.83	57.9	593.07	-3.25	-0.5	

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 12.07.2008 **decreased** by 0.02 percentage points to 11.89% from the previous week level of 11.91%. The inflation rate was 4.76% during the corresponding period last year.

The inflation rate in respect of (a) Primary articles group **increased** by 0.23% to 10.15%, (b) Manufactured products group declined by 0.07% to 10.72% followed by (c) Fuel, power, light and lubricant group unchanged at the previous week's level of 16.94%. The share of these three groups in inflation during the week ending 12.07.2008 stood in the order of 19.77%, 49.94% and 30.52%.

Procurement :

Table – 5: Progressive procurement of Wheat as on 17.07.2008 (lakh tonnes)

State	Total procurement in marketing season 2007-08 (April - March)	Progressive Procurement as on 17.07.2008	
		In Marketing season 2008-2009	In Marketing season 2007-2008
Punjab	67.81	99.39	75.68
Haryana	33.50	52.31	33.46
Uttar Pradesh	5.46	31.23	5.36
Madhya Pradesh	0.57	23.37	0.57
Rajasthan	3.83	9.35	3.83
All-India	111.28	225.44	110.90

Table – 6: Progressive procurement of Rice as on 25.07.2008 (lakh tonnes)

State	Total procurement in marketing season 2006-07 (Oct. – Sept.)	Progressive Procurement as on 25.07.2008	
		In Marketing season 2007-2008	In Marketing season 2006-2007
Andhra Pradesh	53.28	63.73	52.73
Chhattisgarh	28.65	24.00	27.98
Haryana	17.77	15.72	17.72
Kerala	1.51	1.68	1.51
Maharashtra	0.97	1.48	0.89
Orissa	20.02	22.52	19.01
Punjab	78.29	78.71	78.24
Tamil Nadu	10.77	7.93	10.75
Uttar Pradesh	25.59	27.75	25.49
Uttaranchal	1.76	1.47	1.12
West Bengal	6.42	9.26	6.08
All-India	251.07	260.95	247.49