

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 20th March, 2008

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CROP WEATHER WATCH GROUP HELD
ON 14.03.2008.**

Presentations in the meeting

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

Pre-Monsoon Rainfall (March - May) during the week ending on 12th March, 2008

- **Isolated rain/thundershower** occurred over Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh on 8th March 2008; Rajasthan and Gujarat on 12th March, 08 and over Northeastern States on many days of the week.
- **Isolated /scattered rain/thundershowers** occurred over Andaman & Nicobar Islands on many days of the week.
- **Isolated rain/thundershower** occurred over South Tamil Nadu and south Kerala on 10th & 11th March, 08. It subsequently increased, with **fairly widespread rain/thundershowers and isolated heavy falls** occurred over Coastal Tamil Nadu and Kerala on 12th & 13th March, 08.
- **Isolated to scattered rain/thundershower** also occurred over Interior Tamil Nadu, South Karnataka, Rayalseema and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh during last two days.
- Mainly **dry weather** prevailed over remaining parts of the country during the week.

FOG

Fog conditions in the morning hours developed over isolated pockets of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi during first half of the week. Fog conditions in morning hours also developed over some parts of coastal Orissa on 8th, 11th & 12th March, 08 and over Jharkhand and Gangetic West Bengal on 9th March, 08.

- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **rainfall during the week** was excess / normal in 3 sub-divisions, deficient / scanty in 11 sub-divisions and no rain in 22 met sub-divisions.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **cumulative winter rainfall (1st March to 12th March, 2008)** was in excess / normal in 4; deficient / scanty in 13 sub-divisions and no rain in 19 met sub-divisions.

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

Region	Week Ending (12.03.08)				Cumulative (01.03.08 to 12.03.08)			
	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.
	Actual	Normal			Actual	Normal		
North-West India	0.2	10.7	-98	S	0.5	17.0	-97	S
Central India	0.0	2.0	-99	S	0.0	3.7	-99	S
South Peninsular India	2.8	3.2	-13	N	4.3	4.9	-12	N
North-East India	1.0	10.0	-90	S	7.4	17.2	-57	D
Country as a whole	0.8	6.2	-88	S	2.2	10.2	-78	S

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 of northwest India, North Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during the week **They were also above normal by 2-6°C** over remaining parts of west & central India and Orissa during second half of the week
- They were **above normal by 2-4°C** over remaining parts of East & Northeast India during many days of the week.
- They were **below normal by 2-6 °C** over Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh on a few days of the week.
- They were **nearly normal** over remaining parts of the country during the week.

Maximum

- The maximum temperatures were **above normal by 5-8°C** over many parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during many days of the week. They were **above normal by 2-4°C** over remaining parts of west, northwest and central India and adjoining areas of south India and Orissa.
- They were also **above normal by 2-4°C** over Assam & Meghalaya during many days of the week.
- They were **below normal by 2-6 °C** over remaining parts of east India during first half of the week and normal thereafter.
- They were nearly 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.

Weather Outlook / Forecast for the period 13th March - 20th March, 2008 by NCMRWF

Outlook for the Week Ending 19th March, 2008

- *Scattered to fairly widespread showers over south peninsula due to an easterly wave is likely to continue over Tamilnadu, Kerala, South Interior Karnataka and Lakshadweep during next 2-3 days with isolated heavy rain.*
- *Scattered to fairly widespread rain / thundershowers are likely over South Peninsula and parts of Northeastern States.*

Zone-wise Weather Forecast:

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

- *Isolated to scattered rain/snowfall is likely over J&K, H.P. and Uttaranchal during 16th-17th March, 08.*
- *Mainly dry weather is likely over rest of the region*

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

- *Scattered thundershowers/rain is likely Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim and NE states.*
- *Isolated rain/thundershowers are likely over East U.P., Bihar and Jharkhand during next 24-48 Hrs.*
- *Mainly dry weather is expected over rest of the region.*

Central India (MP, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha)

- *Mainly dry weather is expected over the region.*

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

- *Scattered to fairly widespread rainfall activity is likely over Tamilnadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep.*
- *Scattered rain/thundershowers likely over rest of the region except south interior Karnataka where weather will be mainly dry.*

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

- *Mainly dry weather is expected over rest of the region.*

Reservoir Status (For the week ending on 13.03.2008)

- 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 56.22 BCM. Current storage is less than the last year's position of 64.75 BCM and more than the average of last 10 year's storage of 48.60 BCM.

Table – 2: For 81 major reservoirs of the country

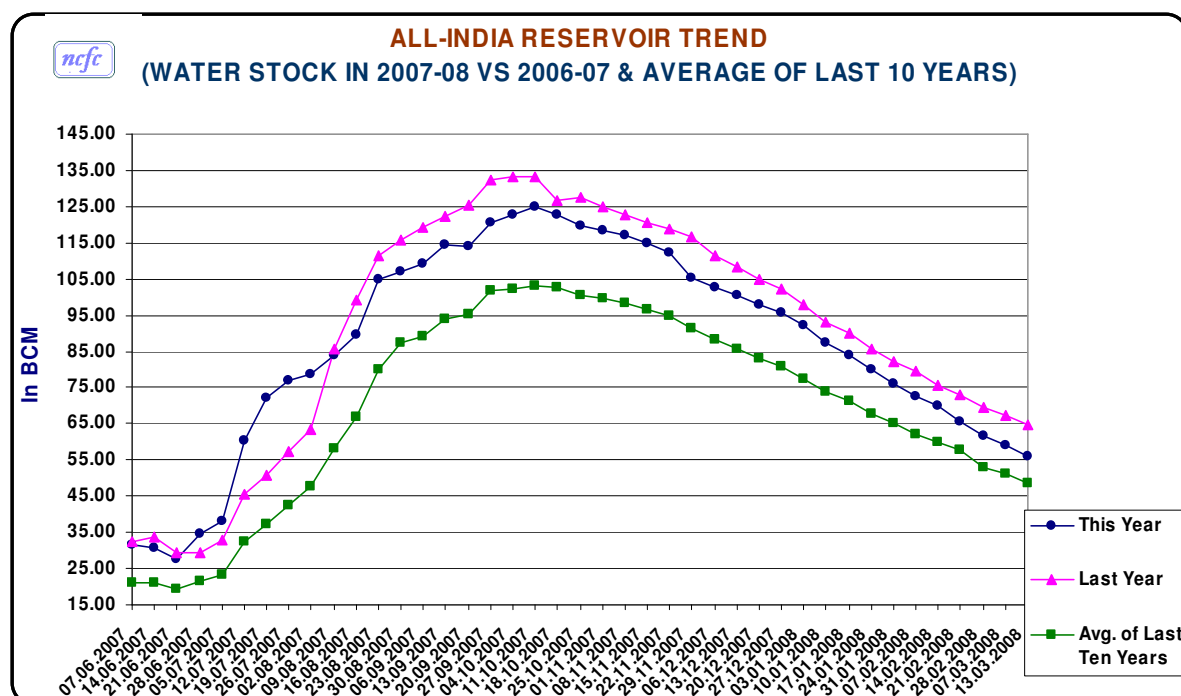
Period	Current Year's Storage as % of FRL*	Current Year's storage as % of last year	Current year as a % of 10 years average level
Current Week	37	87	116
Last Week	39	88	116

The percentage to live capacity at FRL was 43% on 13/03/2007, 37% on 13/03/2006, 24% on 13/03/2005 and 24% on 07/03/2004 .

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

Source: CWC

- There were 66 reservoirs having storage more than 80%, 6 reservoirs having storage between 50% to 80% of Normal Storage and 5 reservoirs having storage between 30% to 50% of Normal Storage.
- There were three reservoirs namely Konar (Jhar), Yeldari (Maha) and Jhakam (Rajasthan) 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 10th 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 10th Mar., 08</i>	<i>2110</i>	<i>371</i>	<i>169</i>
<i>Sales during 1st to 10th Mar., 08</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Closing Stock as on 10.03.2008</i>	<i>1939</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>120</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 14-03-2008							
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	40.66	109.0	39.15	1.51	3.9	AP (+0.7, +5.3), Ass (-0.2, -4.7), Kar (+0.4, +16.9), Ori (-0.2, -7.4), TN (+0.1, +7.1), 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	68.17	106.1	70.64	-2.47	-3.5	AP (+0.4, +8.1), Bih (-0.6, -14.6), Kar (-0.3, -2.4), MP (-0.2, -23.2), Maha (-1.8, -5.8)
Total Cereals	363.59	386.31	106.2	391.93	-5.62	-1.4	
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	8.11	0.21	2.5	AP (-0.2, -4.9), Ass (+0.4, +100.0)
Moong	6.04	6.57	108.7	6.69	-0.12	-1.8	AP (-0.2, -15.9), Ass (+0.1, +100.0), 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	133.79	117.8	141.24	-7.46	-5.3	AP (-0.4, -3.1), Chhat (+0.7, +7.7), Jhar (-0.4, -31.7), Kar (-1.5, -13.9), MP (-3.7, -10.5), Maha(+0.4, +2.7), Raj (+1.3, +10.6), UP (-3.8, -20.3)
Total Foodgrains	477.12	520.10	109.0	533.17	-13.08	-2.5	
Rapeseed & Mustard	59.28	59.61	100.6	66.10	-6.49	-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	12.14	148.8	10.17	1.97	19.4	AP (+0.5, +19.6), Guj (+0.7, +68.4), Kar (+0.1, +6.5), 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	11.04	90.8	12.41	-1.37	-11.0	AP (-0.2, -5.2), Har (+0.1, +185.7), Kar (-1.0, -16.5), Maha (-0.5, -25.2), TN (+0.2, +137.5)
Sesamum	16.77	2.33	13.9	2.51	-0.18	-7.2	TN (-0.2, -31.7)
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	94.74	107.6	100.96	-6.22	-6.2	Guj (+0.6, +13.1), Har (-0.6, -10.4), Kar (-1.0, -11.7), MP (-1.4, -15.5), Maha (-0.9, -14.2), Raj (-4.2, -14.4), TN (+0.7, +18.9), WB (+0.3, +4.6)
All- Crops	565.15	614.84	108.8	634.13	-19.30	-3.0	

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 01.03.2008 increased by 0.09% percentage points to 5.11% from the previous week level of 5.02%. The inflation rate was 6.51% during the corresponding period last year.

The inflation rate in respect of (a) Primary articles group increased by 0.63% to 6.91%, (b) Manufactured products group declined by 0.12% to 4.21% and (c) Fuel, power, light and lubricant group declined by 0.16% to 5.48%. The share of these three groups in inflation during this weekend stood in the order of 30.46%, 45.88% and 23.27%.

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

(Rs. Per Kg.)						
Items	Current price 13.03.08	1 week ago 05.03.08	Fortnight ago 28.02.08	1 month ago 13.02.08	1 year ago 13.03.07	% Variation 13.03.08 over 13.03.07
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Rice	18.00	18.00	18.00	17.50	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	39.00	39.00	37.00	34.00	33.00	18.2
Tur Dal	42.00	42.00	42.00	41.00	35.00	20.0
Sugar	18.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	18.00	Steady
Groundnut Oil	121.00	121.00	121.00	121.00	97.00	24.7
Mustard Oil	87.00	87.00	72.00	70.00	55.00	58.2
Vanaspati	79.00	79.00	68.00	68.00	56.00	41.1
Tea (Loose)	109.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	110.00	-0.9
Milk	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	18.00	11.1
Potato	9.00	8.50	8.00	7.50	8.00	12.5
Onion	9.00	8.50	9.00	8.50	13.00	-30.8

- 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, Mustard Oil, Vanaspati and Milk remained at the same level as they were last week. Rise in prices was noted in **Sugar** (Rs.1.00 per kg, 5.9%), **Tea (Loose)** (Rs. 1.00 per kg, 0.9%), **Potato** (50 paise per kg, 5.9%) and **Onion** (50 paise per kg, 5.9%).

As compared to the last year, price of Sugar 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, 18.2%), **Tur dal** (Rs. 7.00 per kg, 20.0%), **Mustard Oil** (Rs. 32.00 per ltr., 58.2%), **Groundnut Oil** (Rs. 24.00 per ltr, 24.7%), **Vanaspati** (Rs. 23.00 per ltr, 41.1%), Milk (Rs. 2.00 per ltr, 11.1%), Potato (Rs. 1.00 per kg 12.5%) decrease in price of **Tea (Loose)** (Rs. 1.00 per kg, (-)0.9%), and **Onion** (Rs.4.00 per kg, (-)30.8%) was observed.

Procurement :**Table – 6: Progressive procurement of Rice as on 14.03.2008 (lakh tonnes)**

State	Total procurement in marketing season 2006-07 (Oct. – Sept.)	Progressive Procurement as on 14.03.2008	
		In Marketing season 2007-2008	In Marketing season 2006-2007
Andhra Pradesh	53.27	33.55	24.79
Chhattisgarh	28.58	26.42	24.91
Haryana	17.73	15.64	17.66
Kerala	1.51	0.73	0.64
Maharashtra	0.96	1.22	0.88
Orissa	19.93	14.56	12.36
Punjab	78.28	76.92	77.28
Tamil Nadu	10.78	6.17	8.97
Uttar Pradesh	25.49	25.36	20.86
Uttaranchal	1.76	1.44	1.59
West Bengal	6.44	3.25	3.86
All-India	250.75	209.50	198.59