

**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 Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated, the 26th November, 2008

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CROP WEATHER WATCH GROUP HELD
ON 21.11.2008.**

A copy of the summary proceedings of the meeting of Crop Weather Watch Group held on 21st November, 2008 is enclosed. This issues with the approval of the Chairman.

(Dr. Dalip Singh)
Dy. Stat. Adviser

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CROP WEATHER WATCH GROUP HELD ON 21.11.2008

The weekly meeting of the Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) was held on 21.11.2008 under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Ray, E.S.A., DES. The Agenda included discussion on weather condition, progress in crop sowing, availability of inputs, pest situation, price and procurement position. Salient aspects covered in the meeting are given from page 4 onwards.

Summary observations of the Group on Agenda Items.

- *Rainfall received for the country as whole during the week ending 19th November 2008 was 5.0 mm.*
- *The minimum temperatures were below normal over Arunachal Pradesh and Assam & Meghalaya during many days of the week. Temperatures were appreciably above normal to markedly above normal over Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during many days of the week. Temperatures were above normal to appreciably above normal over northwest India, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh during many days of the week. Temperatures were above normal to appreciably above normal over many parts of East India and North Peninsula during second half of the week.*
- *In 81 important water reservoirs monitored by CWC in different parts of the country, total live storage has gone down from 102.36 BCM on 12.11.2008 to 97.50 BCM on 20.11.2008.*
- *Sowing of rabi crops is in full swing. Area sown reported till 21.11.08 under Coarse Cereals, Pulses and Oilseeds was 81%, 77% and 79% of the normal area respectively.*
- *As on 21.11.08, area sown under all rabi crops taken together has been reported to be 298.13 lakh hectares at All India level as compared to 261.19 lakh hectares in the corresponding period of 2007.*
- *Major crops except wheat have reported higher area coverage as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Area reported was higher by 4.9 lakh ha. under Jowar, 10.8 lakh ha. under Gram, 2.6 lakh ha. under Lentil, 2.3 lakh ha. under Peas and 12.4 lakh ha. under Rapeseed & Mustard.*
- *Area sown under wheat is less than the last year due to delayed sowing on account of high soil moisture reported in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Bihar.*
- *Seed position is reported to be comfortable. The incidence of pests & diseases generally remained below Economic Threshold Level (ETL) 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 08.11.2008 decreased to 8.90% from the previous week's level of 8.98%. The inflation rate was 3.20% during the corresponding period of last year.*
- *The inflation rate for foodgrains based on WPI for the week ending 08.11.2008 increased to 7.57% from the previous week's level of 7.83%. Among the foodgrains, inflation for Wheat has remained unchanged at the previous week's level of 3.13%. Rate of Inflation for Rice has increased to 8.55% from the previous week's level of 8.29%, Pulses to 12.13% from the previous week's level of 11.37%. Rate of inflation for Cereals has decreased to 6.83% from the previous week's level of 7.29%.*
- *The inflation for non-food items increased to 12.72% from the previous week's level of 11.05% and for the food items, the inflation increased to 9.31% from the previous week's level of 9.07%.*

Salient aspects of discussions / presentations in the meeting

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

Post-Monsoon Rainfall (October - December) during the week ending on 19th November, 2008

- A **Cyclonic storm “khaimuk”** developed over the Bay of Bengal on 14th November 2008. Under its influence, **widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls** occurred over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalseema on 16th November, 2008.
- **Fairly widespread /widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls** occurred over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalseema on 16th November, 2008. **Widespread rainfall** also occurred over South Interior Karnataka on 17th November, 2008. **Isolated to scattered rainfall** also occurred over the above regions and remaining parts of the South Peninsula during second half of the week. **Isolated rainfall also** occurred over Maharashtra on 18th November, 2008.
- **Isolated to scattered rain/thundershower** occurred over Tamil Nadu & Puducherry during the week.
- **Isolated to scattered precipitation** occurred over Jammu & Kashmir on 14th and 15th November, 2008 and over Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh on 19th November, 2008.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **rainfall during the week** was excess / normal in one met sub-divisions, Excess/normal in 8 met sub-divisions, deficient / scanty in 15 met sub-divisions and no rain in 13 met sub-divisions.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **cumulative rainfall (1st October to 19th November, 2008)** was in excess / normal in 7 and deficient / scanty in 29 sub-divisions.

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

Region	Week Ending (19.11.08)				Cumulative (01.10.08 to 19.11.08)			
	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.	(in mm)		Devi-ation (%)	Cate-gory
	Actual	Normal			Actual	Normal		
North-West India	4.8	2.1	122	E	20.0	35.9	-44	D
Central India	1.3	3.4	-62	S	21.7	68.7	-68	S
South Peninsular India	15.9	17.9	-11	N	151.6	214.7	-29	D
North-East India	0.0	4.0	-99	S	89.4	143.2	-38	D
Country as a whole	5.0	6.0	-16	N	57.5	99.2	-42	D

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.

TEMPERATURE

Minimum Temperature

- The minimum temperatures were **below normal** over Arunachal Pradesh and Assam & Meghalaya during many days of the week.
- They were **appreciably above normal to markedly above normal** over Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during many days of the week.
- They were **above normal to appreciably above normal** over Northwest India, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh during many days of the week.
- They were **above normal to appreciably above normal** over many parts of East India and North Peninsula during second half of the week.

Weather Outlook / Forecast for the period 20th - 26th November, 2008 by IMD

Outlook for the Week Ending 26th November, 2008

- *A low pressure area is likely to form over Southeast Bay of Bengal around 25th November, onwards.*
- *Scattered to fairly widespread rainfall activity is likely over extreme South Peninsula, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.*
- *Isolated to scattered precipitation activity is likely over Northwest India on 20th November, 08 and over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim and North Eastern states on 21st and 22nd November, 08.*
- *Fall in night temperature is likely over northwest and adjoining West, East and Central India from 21st November, 08 onwards for next 3-4 days.*

Warning: Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, Kerala & Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Zone-wise Weather Forecast:

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

- *Mainly dry weather is likely over the rest region.*

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

- *Mainly dry weather is likely over the rest region.*

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

- *Isolated rain/thundershowers are likely over Arunachal Pradesh.*
- *Mainly dry weather is likely over the rest region.*

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

- *Rain/thundershowers are likely at many places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep and at a few places over South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalseema, Coastal and South Interior Karnataka.*
- *Isolated rain/thundershowers are likely over the rest region.*

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

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

Central India (MP, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha)

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

Reservoir Status (For the week ending on 20.11.2008)

- 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 97.50 BCM. Current storage is less than the last year's position of 111.27 BCM and the average of last 10 year's storage of 94.56 BCM.

Table – 2: For 81 major reservoirs of the country

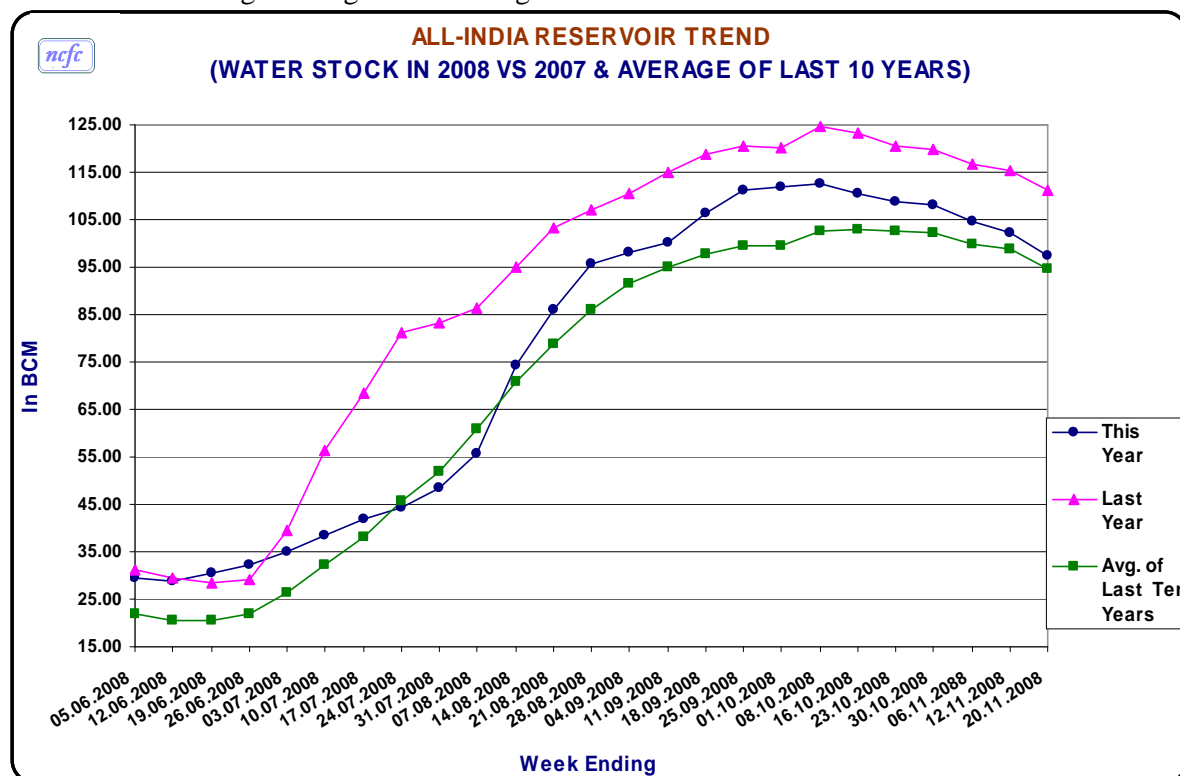
Period	Current Year's Storage as % of FRL*	Current Year's storage as % of last year	Current year as a % of 10 years average level
Current Week	64	88	103
Last Week	67	89	104

The percentage to live capacity at FRL was 73% on 20/11/2007, 77% on 20/11/2006, 59% on 18/11/2005 and 79% on 18/11/2004 .

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

Source: CWC

- There were 63 reservoirs having storage more than 80%, 12 reservoirs having storage between 50% to 80% of Normal Storage and 5 reservoirs having storage between 30% to 50% of Normal Storage.
- There was only one reservoirs namely Pench(Totladoh) (Maha) having storage below 30% of normal storage 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 October to 20th November, 2008

(in '000 Tonnes)

<i>Availability / Sale / Closing Stock</i>	<i>Urea</i>	<i>DAP</i>	<i>MOP</i>	<i>Complex</i>
<i>Requirement upto 01st October to 20th November, 2008</i>	<i>5448</i>	<i>3306</i>	<i>915</i>	<i>2146</i>
<i>Availability during 1st October to 20th November, 08</i>	<i>4287</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>676</i>	<i>1349</i>
<i>Sales during 1st October to 20th November, 08</i>	<i>2588</i>	<i>1794</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>1116</i>
<i>Closing Stock as on 20.11.2008</i>	<i>1699</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>233</i>
<i>Requirement for December, 2008</i>	<i>3594</i>	<i>796</i>	<i>375</i>	<i>746</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 - Rabi (2008-09) as on 21-11-2008								
Crop Name	Normal Area	Normal Area	Area sown reported			Change vis-à-vis prev. year		Remarks
			IV Adv. Est.	This Year	% of Normal	Last Year	Absolute	
	Changes in major States (abs. %)							
Wheat	281.53	265.30	83.78	31.6	84.99	-1.2	-1.4	Guj (+1.1, +55.8), Har (+0.5, +2.9), HP (-2.0, -55.6), MP (-0.5, -3.4), Pun (-1.3, -5.5), Raj (+3.3, +208.3), UP (-2.4, -16.3)
Rice	43.88	37.31	0.60	1.6	0.88	-0.3	-31.8	AP(-0.3, -34.2)
Jowar	43.62	49.11	43.98	89.5	39.12	4.9	12.4	AP (-0.3, -20.2), Maha (+5.1, +19.7)
Maize	11.28	8.15	3.96	48.6	2.92	1.0	35.6	AP (+0.3, +116.0), Kar (+0.3, +44.6), TN (+0.4, +53.8)
Barley	6.14	6.50	3.42	52.6	2.62	0.8	30.5	MP (+0.3, +216.7), Raj (+0.7, +107.2), UP (-0.2, -18.3)
Total Coarse Cereals	61.04	63.60	51.66	81.2	44.97	6.7	14.9	Kar (+0.2, +1.5), MP (+0.3, +216.7), Maha (+5.2, +19.9), Raj (+0.7, +107.2), TN (+0.4, +25.3), UP (-0.3, -20.7)
Total Cereals	386.45	366.21	136.04	37.1	130.84	5.2	4.0	
Gram	75.80	68.50	58.14	84.9	47.35	10.8	22.8	AP (+1.1, +26.0), Kar (+1.7, +27.2), MP (+4.3, +23.8), Raj (+0.8, +12.2), UP (+2.7, +56.5)
Lentil	-	14.45	10.58	73.2	8.00	2.6	32.3	Bih (+0.2, +34.8), MP (+1.3, +34.1), UP (+1.1, +31.5)
Peas	-	7.41	6.61	89.3	4.27	2.3	54.9	MP (+0.8, +51.0), UP (+1.6, +64.0)
Kulthi(Horse Gram)	-	3.10	3.58	115.5	3.83	-0.3	-6.6	AP (-0.3, -68.4), Ori (-0.2, -9.0), TN (+0.2, +104.8)
Urad	8.09	7.30	2.50	34.3	2.80	-0.3	-10.5	AP (-0.3, -50.0), Ori (+0.3, +62.2), TN (-0.3, -24.1)
Moong	7.21	6.22	1.07	17.2	1.27	-0.2	-15.7	AP (-0.2, -67.9), Ori (+0.1, +23.7), TN (-0.1, -9.7)
Lathyrus	-	6.35	3.15	49.6	1.35	1.8	133.7	Chhat (+1.8, 159.6)
Others	31.07*	2.99	3.64	121.8	2.70	0.9	34.8	
Total Pulses	122.16	115.99	89.28	77.0	71.56	17.7	24.8	AP (+0.4, +7.2), Chhat (+1.8, +121.5), Kar (+1.6, +21.7), MP (+6.3, +26.5), Ori (+0.2, +6.3), Raj (+1.0, +15.1), TN (+0.7, +28.4), UP (+5.3, +50.0), WB (+0.2, +27.8)
Total Foodgrains	508.61	482.21	225.32	46.7	202.40	22.9	11.3	
Rapeseed & Mustard	57.49	63.25	56.25	88.9	43.81	12.4	28.4	Ass (-0.3, -21.3), Chhat(-0.5, -65.2), Guj (-0.5, -17.0), Har (+1.3, +25.3), MP (+3.3, +83.0), Raj (+7.1, +37.5), UP (+1.5, +23.1), WB (+0.5, +16.7)
Groundnut	11.12	8.28	2.70	32.6	2.12	0.6	27.4	AP (+0.5, +40.2), Ori (+0.3, +277.8), TN (-0.1, -13.2)
Safflower	3.17	3.69	2.46	66.6	2.60	-0.1	-5.4	Maha (-0.1, -5.3)
Sunflower	11.14	13.04	8.09	62.1	6.87	1.2	17.8	AP (+0.8, +52.8), Kar (+0.6, +14.4), Maha (-0.1, -8.1)
Sesamum	3.06	2.41	0.28	11.6	0.37	-0.1	-24.3	TN (-0.1, -100.0)
Linseed	3.87	4.50	2.47	54.9	2.49	0.0	-0.8	Chhat (-0.3, -56.4), MP (+0.2, +21.2)
Others	0.52	0.54	0.56	103.7	0.53	0.0	5.7	
Total Oilseed (Nine)	90.36	92.21	72.81	79.0	58.79	14.0	23.8	AP (+1.1, +38.2), Ass (-0.3, -20.3), Chhat (-0.9, -63.4), Guj (-0.5, -15.6), Har (+1.3, +25.3), Kar (+0.6, +11.6), MP (+3.5, +70.0), Maha (-0.2, -6.3), Ori (+0.3, +37.8), Raj (+7.1, +37.5), UP (+1.5, +22.7), WB (+0.5, +17.3)
All- Crops	598.97	574.41	298.13	51.9	261.19	36.9	14.1	

Source: Crops & TMOP Divisions, DAC

*:- Includes Lentil, Peas, Kauthi, Lathyrus, Cowpea, Avare and Moth etc. during 2007-08 Adv Est. (E&S).

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 08.11.2008 decreased to 8.90% from the previous week's level of 8.98%. The inflation rate was 3.20% during the corresponding period last year.

The inflation rate in respect of (a) Primary articles group **increased** by 0.65% to 11.66%, (b) Manufactured products group declined by 0.04% to 8.02% and (c) Fuel, power, light and lubricant group declined by 1.01% to 8.21%. The share of these three groups in inflation during the week ending 08.11.2008 stood in the order of 29.94%, 50.14% and 19.86%.

Procurement:

Table – 5: Progressive procurement of Rice as on 21.11.2008 (lakh tonnes)

State	Total procurement in marketing season 2007-08 (Oct. – Sept.)	Progressive Procurement as on 21.11.2008	
		In Marketing season 2008-2009	In Marketing season 2007-2008
Andhra Pradesh	74.17	3.22	0.48
Chhattisgarh	27.43	2.36	1.49
Haryana	15.72	12.57	13.58
Kerala	1.68	0.50	0.42
Maharashtra	1.60	0.06	0.07
Orissa	23.49	0.00	0.10
Punjab	79.07	80.69	69.04
Tamil Nadu	9.68	1.83	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	28.91	2.34	0.70
Uttaranchal	1.47	0.29	0.08
West Bengal	15.08	0.45	0.00
All-India	285.02	104.43	86.09