

**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 13th March, 2009

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CROP WEATHER WATCH GROUP HELD
ON 06.03.2009.**

Summary observations of the Group on Agenda Item

- *Cumulative rainfall received for the country as whole, during the period 1st January to 28th February, 2009 was 23.6 mm which is 46% less than the normal rainfall in the above period.*
- *Actual Mean Maximum temperature anomaly ranged between 4 to 6⁰C over most parts of West Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, some parts of Gujarat, East Rajasthan, Vidarbha, South Interior Karnataka, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Orissa, Jharkhand, 0 to 2⁰C over most parts of Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, some more parts of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, West Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Tripura, Andaman Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, -2 to 0⁰C over some parts of Haryana, East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal & Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, 2 to 4⁰C over remaining parts of the country.*
- *Minimum Temperature anomaly ranged between 4 to 6⁰C over most parts of West Rajasthan, some parts of East Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Maharashtra, Mizoram, Tripura, 2 to 4⁰C over some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Rayalseema, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Gangetic West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Andaman Nicobar Islands, -2 to 0⁰ over some parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Rayalseema, Telangana, Vidarbha, South & North Interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, 0 to 2⁰C over remaining parts of the Country.*
- *In 81 important water reservoirs monitored by CWC in different parts of the country, total live storage has gone down from 54.41 BCM on 26.02.2009 to 49.64 BCM on 05.03.2009.*
- *Area sown reported till 06.03.09 under Coarse Cereals, Pulses and Oilseeds during Rabi season was 109%, 123% and 106% of the normal area respectively.*
- *As on 06.03.09, area sown under all rabi crops taken together has been reported to be 631.03 lakh hectares at All India level as compared to 609.96 lakh hectares in the corresponding period of 2007-08.*

- *Area reported was higher by 4.1 lakh ha. under rice, 4.2 lakh ha. under Jowar, 1.6 lakh ha. under Maize, 6.7 lakh ha. under Gram, 1.5 lakh ha. under Lentil, 1.9 lakh ha. under Peas and 6.6 lakh ha. under Rapeseed & Mustard.*
- *Seed and fertilizer position is reported to be comfortable.*
- *The incidence of pests & diseases generally remained below Economic Threshold Level (ETL) for most of the crops.*
- *Preliminary reports of low to moderate intensity yellow rust-aphids in Jalandhar/ Kapurthala areas of Punjab have been received.*
- *The all-commodity inflation rate based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) on a point to point basis for the week ending 21.02.2009 decreased to 3.03% from the previous week's level of 3.36%. The inflation rate was 5.69% during the corresponding period of last year.*
- *The inflation rate for foodgrains based on WPI for the week ending 21.02.2009 decreased to 11.94% from the previous week's level of 12.29%. Among the foodgrains, inflation for Wheat has decreased to 5.80% from the previous week's level of 6.44%, Rice to 14.80% from the previous week's level of 15.10%, Pulses to 15.81% from the previous week's level of 17.57% and Cereals to 11.32% from the previous week's level of 11.53%.*
- *The inflation for non-food items decreased to 1.74% from the previous week's level of 2.93% and for the food items it has decreased to 8.28% from the previous week's level of 9.85%.*

Action Points of the previous meetings

1. *Wholesale and retail prices furnished by Deptt. of Consumer Affairs sometimes exhibit trends which are not explained by the supply position and prices of commodities as practically observed in the field, beside inconsistencies in the retail prices vis-à-vis wholesale prices of certain items. Deptt. of Consumer Affairs may please furnish a copy of the Price Collection Mechanism for circulation in the next meeting.*

(Action: Deptt. of Consumer Affairs)

Salient aspects of discussions / presentations in the meeting

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

Winter Season Rainfall (January - February) during the week ending on 04th March, 2009

- **Rain/thundershowers** occurred over Arunachal Pradesh during first half of the week. Isolated to scattered rain/thundershowers also occurred over Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim during this period.
- **Isolated to scattered rain/thundershowers** occurred over Andaman & Nicobar Islands during second half of the week.
- **Isolated to scattered precipitation** occurred over Jammu & Kashmir towards the end of the week.
- Mainly **dry weather** prevailed over remaining parts of the country during the week.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **rainfall during the week** was Excess / normal in 01 met sub-divisions, deficient / scanty in 07 met sub-divisions and no rain in 28 met sub-divisions.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **cumulative rainfall (1st January to 28th February, 2009)** was in excess / normal in 01 and deficient / scanty in 28 sub-divisions and no rain in 07 met sub-divisions.

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

Region	Week Ending (04.03.09)				Cumulative (01.01.09 to 28.02.09)			
	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.	(in mm)		Devi-ation (%)	Cate-gory
	Actual	Normal			Actual	Normal		
North-West India	0.4	11.1	-97	S	62.6	83.6	-25	D
Central India	0.0	2.5	-100	NR	2.6	19.0	-86	S
South Peninsular India	0.1	1.7	-97	S	2.6	16.1	-84	S
North-East India	7.4	10.1	-26	D	18.8	53.8	-65	S
Country as a whole	1.3	6.2	-79	S	23.6	43.8	-46	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

Maximum Temperature

- The Minimum temperatures were below normal over many parts of east and northeast India on first to third March. They were above normal to markedly above normal during remaining days over these regions.
- They were above normal to markedly above normal over many parts of west and central India during the week.
- Over northwest India while they were below normal during middle of the week, they were above normal to appreciably above normal at the beginning and end of the week.
- They were near normal over remaining parts of the country.

Minimum Temperature

- The Maximum temperatures were appreciably above normal to markedly above normal over many parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand during many days of the week.
- They were above normal to appreciably above normal over remaining parts of the country during many days of the week.

Weather Outlook / Forecast for the period 05th – 11th March, 2009 by IMD

Outlook for the Week Ending 11th March, 2009

- *A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect Western Himalayan region on 6th & 7th March, 2009.*
- *Under the influence of an easterly wave embedded with cyclonic circulation in lower levels, scattered rain/thundershowers are likely over extreme south Peninsula from 8th March, 09 onwards. Fall in day temperature is also likely over Peninsular India.*
- *No significant change in day temperature is likely over central parts of the country.*

Zone-wise Weather Forecast:

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

- *Rain/snow is likely at a few places over Jammu & Kashmir during next 48 hours and isolated thereafter; at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand after 24 hours.*
- *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 region.*

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

- *Rain / thundershowers are likely at isolated places over the region..*

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

- *Rain/thundershowers are likely at isolated places over Nicobar Islands and over Tamil Nadu after 48 hours.*
- *Mainly dry weather is 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 05.03.2009)

- 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 49.64 BCM. Current storage is less than the last year's position of 59.30 BCM and the average of last 10 year's storage of 49.86 BCM.

Table – 3: For 81 major reservoirs of the country

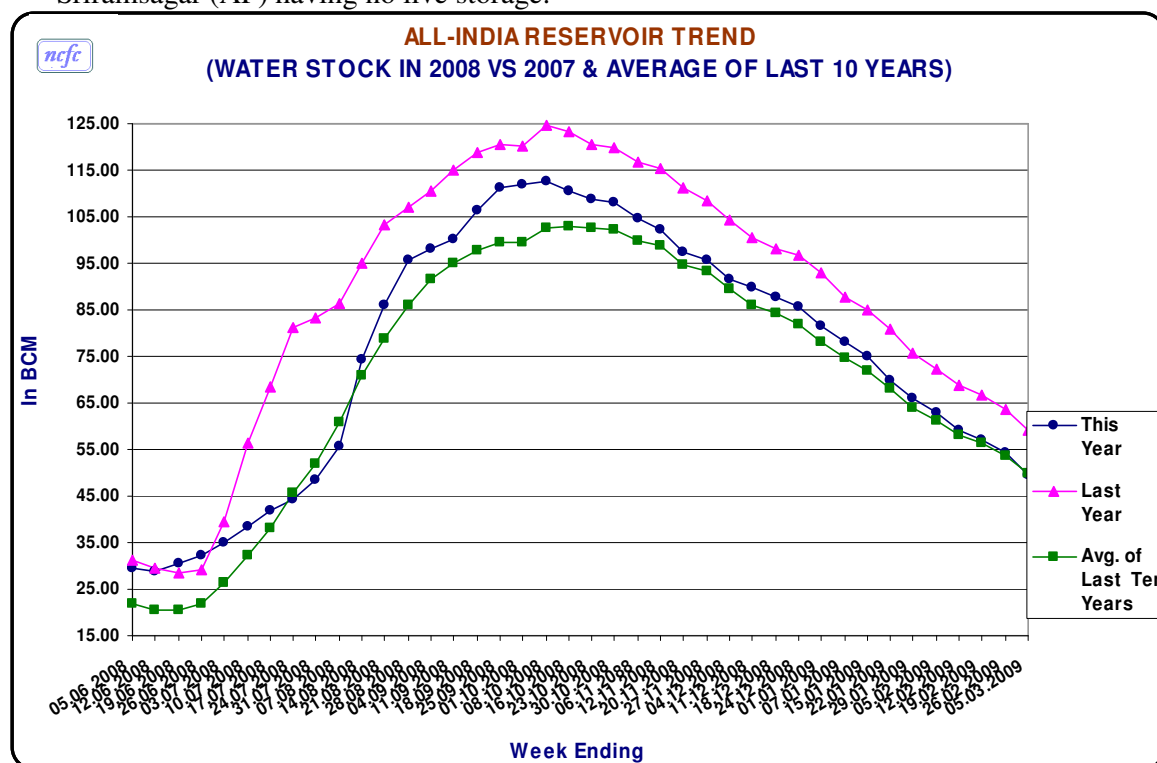
Period	Current Year's Storage as % of FRL*	Current Year's storage as % of last year	Current year as a % of 10 years average level
Current Week	33	84	100
Last Week	36	85	101

The percentage to live capacity at FRL was 39% on 05/03/2008, 42% on 05/03/2007, 44% on 03/03/2006 and 31% on 03/03/2005 .

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

Source: CWC

- There were 46 reservoirs having storage more than 80%, 19 reservoirs having storage between 50% to 80% of Normal Storage and 7 reservoirs having storage between 30% to 50% of Normal Storage.
- There were eight reservoirs namely Gumti (Tripura), Dantiwada (Guj), Yeldari (Maha), Harangi (Kar), Rana Prata Sagar (Raj), Vanivilas Sagar (Kar), Sholapur (TN) and Isapur (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 – 4: Requirement, Availability, Sales and Stock position of Major Fertilizers Urea, DAP and MOP during 1st October to 28th February, 2009

(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 28th February, 2009</i>	<i>13302</i>	<i>4921</i>	<i>1838</i>	<i>4002</i>
<i>Availability during 1st October to 28th February, 2009</i>	<i>12449</i>	<i>4046</i>	<i>1897</i>	<i>3263</i>
<i>Sales during 1st October to 28th February, 2009</i>	<i>11665</i>	<i>3962</i>	<i>1642</i>	<i>3128</i>
<i>Closing Stock as on 28.02.2009</i>	<i>784</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>255</i>	<i>135</i>
<i>Requirement for March, 2009</i>	<i>1120</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>228</i>	<i>332</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.

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 21.02.2009 decreased to 3.03% from the previous week's level of 3.36%. The inflation rate was 5.69% during the corresponding period last year.

The inflation rate in respect of (a) Primary articles group **decreased** by 1.31% to 6.00% followed by (b) Manufactured products group by 0.16% to 4.51% and (c) Fuel, power, light and lubricant group remained unchanged at the previous week's level of (-)3.98%. The share of these three groups in inflation during the week ending 21.02.2009 stood in the order of 46.02%, 81.83% and (-)28.45%.

Procurement:

Table – 5: Progressive procurement of Rice as on 09.03.2009 (lakh tonnes)

State	Total procurement in marketing season 2007-08 (Oct. – Sept.)	Progressive Procurement as on 09.03.2009	
		In Marketing season 2008-2009	In Marketing season 2007-2008
Andhra Pradesh	74.17	42.00	32.18
Chhattisgarh	27.43	25.15	25.63
Haryana	15.72	14.05	15.62
Kerala	1.68	0.95	0.67
Maharashtra	1.60	1.52	1.21
Orissa	23.49	15.34	14.50
Punjab	79.07	83.83	76.84
Tamil Nadu	9.68	8.14	5.84
Uttar Pradesh	28.91	34.47	24.67
Uttaranchal	1.47	2.80	1.43
West Bengal	15.08	7.15	3.11
All-India	285.02	243.66	205.76