

# **Preparedness for South-West Monsoon 2026**

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# Mandate of DA&FW

- Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is mandated to monitor the progress of South West Monsoon (SWM) and its likely impact on agricultural operations in the Country.
- Coordination of relief measures for managing drought as per the Manual for Drought Management

# IMD forecast for SWM-2026

- IMD in its long range forecast issued on 13 April 2026 stated:
  - ✓ Seasonal rainfall over the country very likely to be below normal (90–95% of LPA).
  - ✓ The development of El Nino conditions is very likely during the SW Monsoon season

# Action taken in DA&FW after the forecast for SWM -2026

- Advisory issued to all States to review preparedness for weather-related contingency
- ICAR-CRIDA to update District Agriculture Contingency Plans (DACPs) and to plan interface meetings with the States.
- Weakly monitoring by Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG).
- Meeting with Relief Commissioners/ State Agriculture Dept to review their preparedness for SWM-2026 held on 27.04.2026
- Meeting by Crisis Management Group (CMG) if required.

# Action on the part of the States

- Updating the District Agricultural Contingency Plans (DACPs) & ensuring the state of preparedness in districts in line with the DACPs.
- Ensure continuous monitoring of the SWM -2026, collection of daily data of rainfall, water storage position, water availability & supply and progress of sowing operations;
- Ensuring availability of seeds of appropriate varieties in sufficient quantities as per the contingency plans. This will require making an assessment of seeds which may be required in case of a drought situation.

# Action on the part of the States

- Promoting moisture conservation, crop diversification.
- Constructing water harvesting structure, restoring irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals, energizing tube-wells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps;
- Review the status of water storage in the water reservoirs
- efficient use of the available water resources to tide over any possible water shortage and
- Functional Drought Monitoring Centre at the State Headquarters

# Action on the part of the States

- Crisis Management Plan (CMP) provides a comprehensive framework for phased management of drought as a crisis. The State machinery should be sensitized to the same and make advanced preparations to respond adequately to any contingencies if required
- to keep aside 5 to 10% of the flexi funds allocated to the State (RKVY) for undertaking appropriate interventions, if the situation so warrants, to minimize the adverse impact of an aberrant monsoon.

# **Follow Drought Manual in case of crisis**

State Government is required to implement mandatorily the guidelines of Drought Manual, while determining/declaring drought in their State.

Drought Manual outlines various aspects of drought monitoring, management & mitigation

# Mandatory Indicators for Drought Assessment ( Trigger-1)

## 1. Rainfall Related Indices

- Rainfall Deviation – expresses departure in rainfall from its normal value in % age terms

or

- Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) – expresses the actual rainfall as a standardized departure with respect to rainfall probability distribution function

and

- Dry Spell – a short period usually of 4 weeks of rainfall or no rainfall (3 weeks in case of light soils/2 weeks in case of sandy soil)

# Impact Indicators for Drought Assessment (Trigger-2)

- Crop Situation Related Indices
- Remote Sensing based Vegetation Indices
- Soil Moisture Based Indices
- Hydrological Indices
- Other Factors - Socio-Economic Indicators

# Field Verification

**Ground Truthing or Verification** – essential for a realistic and credible determination of drought at the district/sub-district level

- ▶ Matrix based analysis to indicate a **moderate** or **severe** drought
- ▶ To be conducted on each of the **10%** of drought affected villages, on random basis, preferably through smart phone based app.
- ▶ Estimated crop loss of 33% or more qualifies for declaration of drought

# Sources of Data for Drought

Key variables	Indicator/Indices	Sources of Data
Rainfall	Rainfall Deviation/SPI/Dry Spell	IMD, State Govt.
Crop Sown Area	Deviation from normal	State Government (Agri. Deptt.)
Satellite based crop condition	NDVI, NDWI deviation from normal VCI of NDVI/NDWI	MNCFC, NRSC & State Remote Sensing Centres
Stream Flow	SFDI	CWC/India-WRIS
Ground Water Levels	GWDI	CGWB
Reservoir Level	RSI	CWC, Irrigation Deptt., Water Resources Deptt

- **State Remote Sensing Centres are required to compute NDVI/NDWI and VCI value.**
- **State Agriculture Universities are to calculate and provide Soil Moisture Based Indices.**

# Steps for Determination of Kharif Drought

**Step 1** – Assessment of Matrix for Mandatory Indicators

**Step 2** – Assessment of Matrix for Impact Indicators – any three of the four types of the impact indicators

- ▶ Severe drought – if two of the 3 selected impact indicators are in severe category and 1 in moderate category
- ▶ Moderate drought – if two of the selected 3 impact indicators are in moderate category

**Step 3** – Ground Truthing needed to make a final determination of drought

# Timelines

## ➤ Declaration of Drought :

- ✓ only through **Notification** indicating the **level of severity**
- ✓ Kharif drought - not later than 31<sup>st</sup> October, can be declared in August, if seasonal conditions signify drought like situation (**Early Drought**).
- ✓ Rabi drought - not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March, can be declared during November/December as per the rabi cropping situation, if seasonal conditions signify drought like situation (**Early Drought**).

# WHEN TO SEEK NDRF ASSISTANCE

- **NDRF Assistance** – ONLY when the Drought is SEVERE
  - ✓ States to manage Drought through SDRF if Drought is not Severe
  - ✓ If funds are not available in SDRF, State may submit memorandum seeking assistance under NDRF even for moderate drought.
- **Memorandum for Financial Assistance**
  - Within a week from the date of declaration of drought only if the calamity is of a SEVERE nature



# THANK YOU

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