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Monsoon and Sowing: Update

South-West monsoon has progressed well so far with cumulative rainfall in the country currently 8% above the LPA (9 Sep 2024). Most regions of the country have received normal to above normal rainfall which has also translated into an improvement in reservoir storage. Spatial distribution of rainfall indicates that while some states such as Punjab and Bihar have received deficient rains, southern states, especially Andhra Pradesh Telangana and Tamil Nadu have received excess rainfall (above 40% of LPA). Kharif sowing has shown a steady improvement with acreage 2.2% higher than last year. Pulses and paddy have shown the maximum improvement. Overall, the trajectory of monsoon has evolved broadly in line with IMD's projections. This should be positive for the inflation outlook. However, risks remain from unseasonal or excess rain in some parts of the country.

Where does Kharif sowing stand?

As of 9 Sep 2024, kharif sowing is 2.2% higher compared with last year.

- Total sown area for almost all crops is higher than last year, barring cotton and jute. Compared with the normal sown area, almost 99.7% of total sowing has been completed.
- Sowing for pulses has seen the most noticeable increase, and stands 7.5% higher compared with last year. Within pulses, sowing of arhar (12.1%) and moth bean (11.8%) has registered double digit increase. On the other hand, acreage of urd bean and moong bean has declined by 6.6% and 3.3% respectively.
- For paddy, sown area is higher by 4% compared with last year.
- Sowing of coarse cereals has picked up considerably as the government has focused on improving production for these crops. Within this, sown area of ragi (23.5%) and jowar (7.8%) has shown considerable momentum. This also coincides with growing demand for these products. Sown area for other crops such as Maize, Jowar, and small millets also inched up. On the other hand, there has been a marginal decline in sown area of Bajra (-1.5%).
- Oilseeds have also registered an increase of 1.6%, led by higher sowing of groundnut (9.4%). Sown area of Soybean, Sunflower and niger also improved. However, acreage of sesamum and castor declined.
- Sown area of Jute & Mesta was down by (-) 14.3% and that of Cotton fell by (-) 9.1% compared with last year. This can be attributed partly to a conscious shift by farmers to other crops.

Table 1: Kharif Sowing

(Lakh ha)	Normal Sown Area (2018-19 – 2022-23)	Area sown in 2023-24	Area sown in 2024-25	Growth (YoY %)
Coarse Cereals	180.9	181.7	188.7	3.8
Paddy	401.6	393.6	409.5	4.0
Pulses	136.0	117.4	126.2	7.5
Oilseeds	190.2	189.4	192.4	1.6
Cotton	129.3	123.4	112.1	(9.1)
Sugarcane	51.2	57.1	57.7	1.0
Jute and Mesta	6.7	6.7	5.7	(14.3)
All Crops	1095.8	1069.3	1092.3	2.2

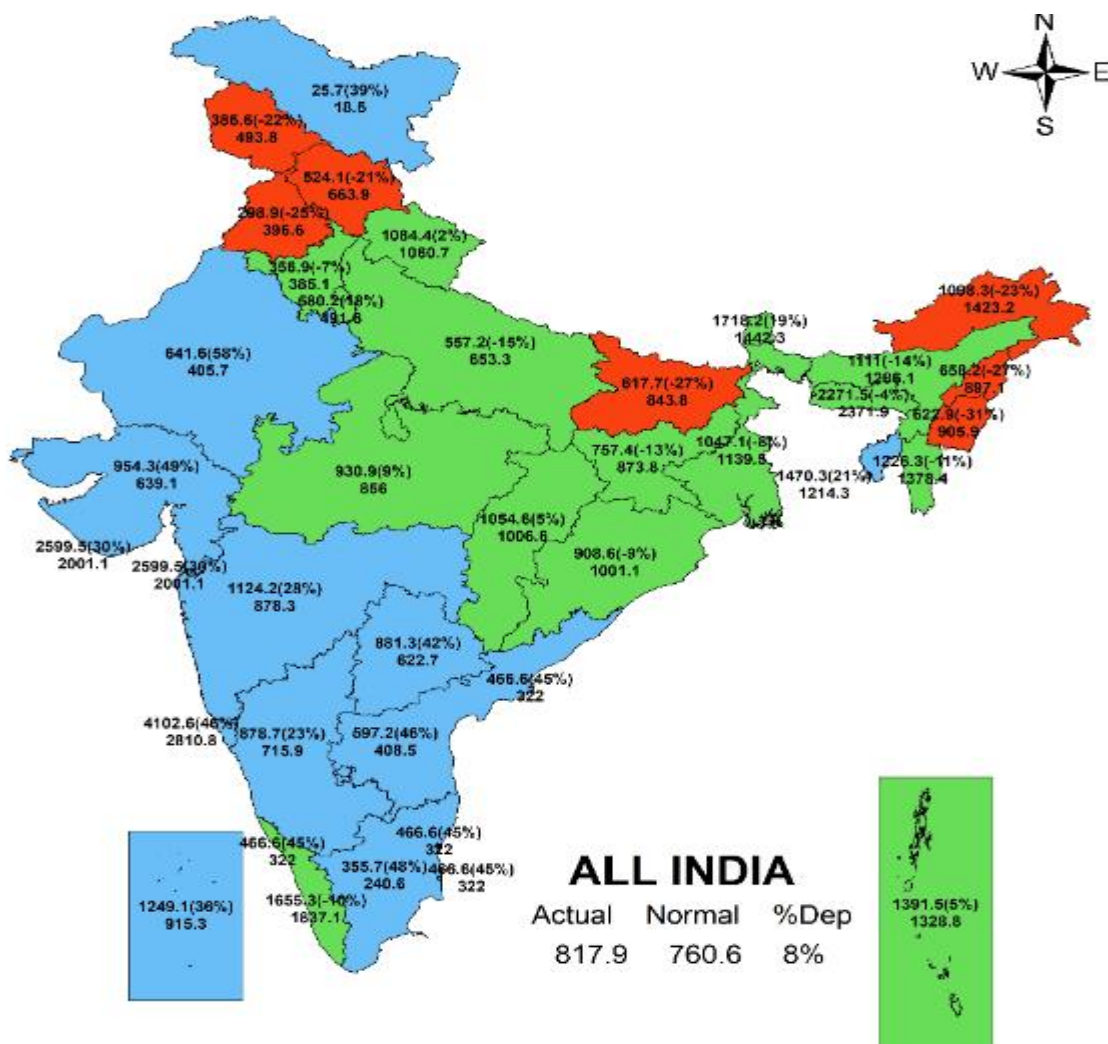
Source: PIB, Bank of Baroda Research | Data as of 9 Sep 2024

Monsoon:

For the period 1 Jun to 9 Sep 2024, Southwest Monsoon is 8% above LPA compared with last year.

- Most parts of the country received normal rainfall till 9 Sep 2024. These included states such as Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- However, states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra in the Central Region received excess rainfall.
- In the Southern Peninsula, a majority of states have received excess rainfall. These include Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Only Kerala received normal rainfall.
- On the other hand, states such as Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh as well as a few North-Eastern states have received deficient rains so far.

Fig 1: Distribution pattern of South-West Monsoon



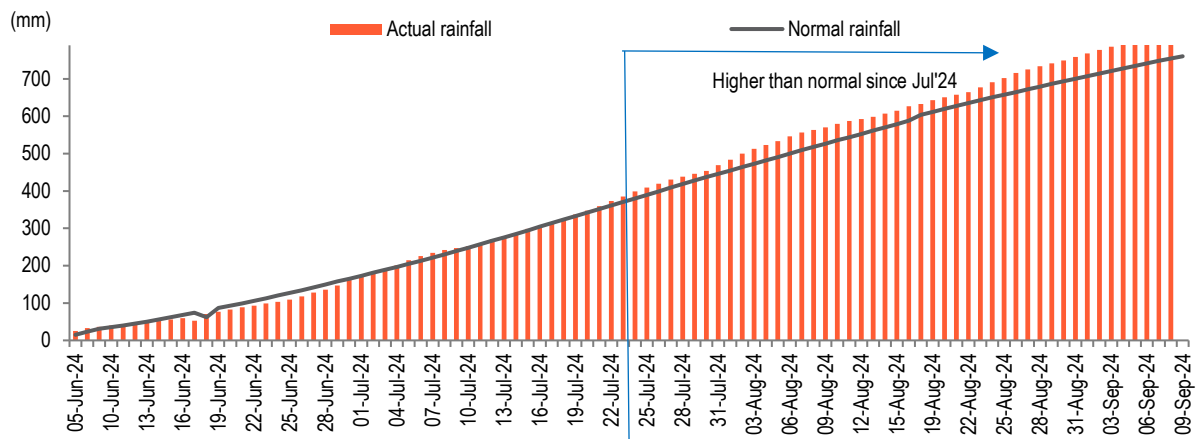
Source: IMD, Bank of Baroda Research | Period from 1 Jun-9 Sep 2024

Legend

Large Excess [60% or more] | Excess [20% to 59%] | Normal [-19% to 19%] | Deficient [-59% to -20%] | Large Deficient [-99% to -60%] | No Rain [-100%] | No Data

Overall, cumulative rainfall this year remains much higher so far at 817.9mm, compared with 684.6mm last year. It is even higher than the normal rainfall (760.6mm) received during this period.

Fig 2: Cumulative Distribution of rainfall



Source: CEIC, Bank of Baroda Research

Table 2 shows that a total of 17 subdivisions, which account for 46% of the total area, have received normal rainfall between 1 Jun 2024 - 9 Sep 2024. Another 14 subdivisions, have received above normal rainfall in the same period and these account for another ~40% of the total area of the country. Only 5 subdivisions received deficient rain, accounting for a meagre 15% of the total area.

Table 2: Subdivision wise distribution of Rainfall

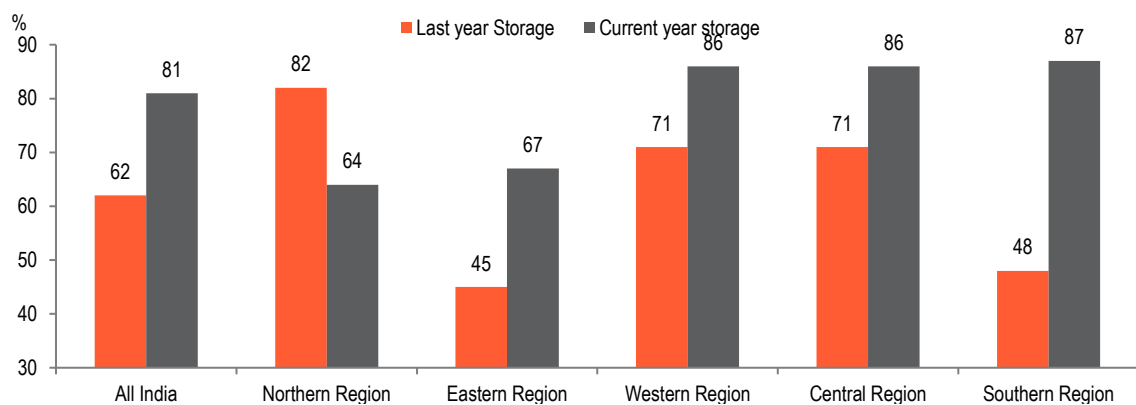
Period (1 Jun 2024-9 Sep 2024)	No. of Subdivisions	Sub divisional	% area of Country
Large Excess	2		9
Excess	12		30
Normal	17		46
Deficient	5		15
Large Deficient	0		0
No Rain	0		0

Source: IMD, Bank of Baroda Research

Reservoir storage status:

In terms of reservoir storage (Fig 3), the reservoir level as a % of total capacity is higher at 81% as on 5 Sep 2024 compared with just 62% last year. This is led by broad-based improvement in reservoir storage across all regions, barring the northern region. The southern region has noted the maximum improvement over last year as it has received abundant rainfall. The northern region continues to trail but is likely to catch up as rainfall gains momentum.

Fig 3: Reservoir level across regions



Source: Central Water Commission, Bank of Baroda Research | Note: Data as of 5 Sep 2024

Key points to note:

- Cumulatively (1 Jun-9 Sep 2024), India has received 817.9mm rainfall, which is higher than 684.6mm received in the same period last year.
- It is even higher than the normal level of rainfall of 760.6mm recorded in the same time period.
- This implies South-west monsoon is 8% above LPA compared so far.
- Higher than normal rainfall has helped sowing, with acreage of major kharif crops showing an improvement over last year.
- Acreage of pulses, paddy, coarse cereals, sugarcane and oilseeds have seen an improvement (YoY basis) till 9 Sep 2024.
- Reservoir storage level have also improved across regions (barring Norther region), which bodes well for Rabi sowing.

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