South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS) drought weekly bulletin is produced by International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and is funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan. ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) supports state government in implementing drought contingency plans. The bulletin supports the government and other users to strengthen the potential use of satellite technology and modeling tools to reduce the impacts on agriculture drought risks and mitigation efforts.

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Rainfall condition for UP, Bihar, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar islands and parts of MP and Rajasthan might increase in the next week; currently, the rainfall is higher in these regions.

- The North-eastern States of India might experience increase in rainfall.

- Central and eastern parts of Maharashtra, South MP, South-west of Odisha, AP and Telangana experience deficit rainfall going by the forecast till 19 Sep.

- Sri Lanka for Southern and Western Provinces explains low rainfall but the condition might improve from end of August to first week of Sep.

- Nepal far west and south-east rainfall anomaly explains increase in rainfall including Bhutan but situation might increase by early Sep.

- Overall Pakistan shows no anomaly in rainfall except northern region with isolated rainfall going by the extended prediction till 19 Sep.

Note: The summary on country specific details described above based on the ERPAS MME information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the IWMI and its partners as well the data provided by IITM.
The experimental drought forecast products for research/scientific use based on 25th August 2018 initial condition. These forecast products are based on the real-time weekly operational forecast generated by Global ENsemble (GENS), a weather forecast model made up of 21 separate forecasts, or ensemble members developed at The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), NOAA.

Drought Forecast Outlook:

- The initial condition of SSI shows slight deficit compared to last week over Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and North-eastern states, particularly excess soil moisture in north-eastern parts of UP.
- Initial condition on the Soil Runoff Index (SRI) explains similar trend to SSI.
- Some level of dryness is expected in the following weeks over central parts of the regions such as western Andhra Pradesh, western belt of Karnataka, and middle parts of Tamil Nadu. South MP also shows continuous trend of extreme dryness in isolated locations.
- In reference to IMD actual rainfall for India, several northern states in eastern UP, Bihar are in deficit rainfall condition which is affecting the crop productivity and advance need for State and Local authorities for better planning and coordination on water resources management.
Actual Rainfall – June 2018

- Month of June has experienced normal rainfall over peninsular India and Chhattisgarh and Orissa experience higher rainfall.
- There has been a deficit of rainfall in the month of June over Bihar, Gujarat and UP.
- Overall there has been a excess rainfall along western coast of India.
- North Central and Western part of the region is facing serious deficit of rainfall including MP, Bihar and Gujarat. This might highly affect the crop productivity during this year’s Kharif season.

Actual Rainfall – Jul 2018

- Overall there is an increase in rainfall for the month of July compared to the long-term anomaly, however some coastal areas in Kerala, southern Gujarat, Orissa, West Bengal, along with north of Jammu & Kashmir, and some NE States had excess rainfall.
- Month of June has experienced normal rainfall over peninsular India and Chhattisgarh and Orissa experience higher rainfall.
- There has been a deficit of rainfall in the month of June over Bihar, Gujarat and UP.
- Overall there has been a excess rainfall along western coast of India.
- North Central and Western part of the region is facing serious deficit of rainfall including MP, Bihar and Gujarat. This might highly affect the crop productivity during this year’s Kharif season.

Data Source: IMD

Note: Simple qualitative assessment on the performance on rainfall condition was described here to cross compare with SADMS – IDSI products for evaluation purpose only.
South Asia Drought Indices – A comparison & Assessment

**SA-DEWS**
- South Asia-Drought Early Warning System (SA-DEWS) is an integrated approach based on satellite estimates of rainfall, temperature, wind, and soil type utilized in VIC model and the derived outputs namely Standardized Precipitation Index (3-Month), Standardized Soil Moisture Index (SSI), and Standardized Runoff Index (SRI).

**SWADI**
- Soil Water Anomaly Drought Index (SWADI) is derived from satellite-based decadal soil moisture product of ASCAT provided by EUMETSAT.

**IDSI**
- Integrated Drought Severity Index (IDSI) is an integrated index that has been formulated using VCI, TCI, and PCI at 500m resolution for agricultural land-use over South Asia.
- It can be observed, that during this time period the indices show a good relation with each other. The peninsular India has reviving well from the drought situation. Parts of Bihar, Jharkhand and Eastern UP are facing some scarcity of rainfall which is well reflected in all the three indices. Also, parts of Karnataka, AP and Tamil Nadu are still facing moderate to severe drought like scenario.
South Asia Drought Forecast

Summary:

- Using the initial condition i.e. 15th August 2018 based on satellite rainfall estimates of 3B42RT daily time-step integrates in the VIC model and the derived outputs namely Standardized Precipitation Index (3-Month), Standardized Soil Moisture Index (SSI) and Standardized Runoff Index (SRI)

- The extreme values of all three conditions are statistically combined to generated areas under drought for entire South Asia

- Northern Tamil Nadu, isolated patches of Western AP and Telangana, Jammu & Kashmir, and parts of states along the northeastern belt is observed to have Severe to Extreme dry condition. Few patches in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand shows some level of stress condition which seems to be rising towards severity.

- Reference to IMD SPI data is well correlated to the area under drought predicted by drought algorithm.
India – State wise analysis
South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS) – Agriculture Assessment (Maharashtra)

Summary:

- SADMS framework was applied for the agriculture drought monitoring in Maharashtra for current obtained mainly from satellite remote sensing data. The index (Integrated Drought Severity Index – IDSI), Indian Meteorological Rainfall maps were analysed to understand rainfall deficit which could help in validating the drought maps with the absence of in-situ observations.

- Moderate rainfall in the month of August has reduced the vegetation stress in the agricultural land, which is clearly reflected in the IDSI. Most of the State shows less stress, all districts show progress in the agricultural growth. Same has been revealed by seasonal rainfall report from IMD.

- In reference to SADEWS till end Aug, both the SSI and SRI are favourable using the precipitation forecast data.
Out of the 13 districts in A.P., 6 districts had low rainfall (Prakasham, Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa, Anantapur and Kurnool) from June 1 to 28 Aug 2018;

From IDSI, South-west districts are in moderate to extreme category and the northern districts shows normal to watch condition with new satellite observations determining the rainfall deviation last week.
The Integrated Drought Severity Index (IDSI) for Karnataka were assessed at district level. The condition of vegetation has moved a level higher in severity all across the State, except normal category for a few patches at the central region, which clearly correlates with the rainfall anomaly provided by KSNDMC. However there has been some rainfall in the southern western parts of the district which might reduce the crop stress. The situation in the north and southeast districts are still under stress.
Summary:

The Integrated Drought Severity Index (IDSI) for Telangana was assessed at district level. There seems to be a slight decrease in stress levels in the State except for a few patches in the western region, as shown by the rainfall departure map. Western States are observed to have moved from watch to under stress.

IMD seasonal rainfall and rainfall anomaly over Telangana shows closer agreement to the IDSI product.
South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS) – Agriculture Assessment (Tamil Nadu)

Summary:
• Overall condition of the stress is same as previous analysis cycle. Also north-west and south-east parts of Tamil Nadu seem to have higher stress similar to the week ending on 12th of August.
• Overall, it can be observed that all districts have similar drought classes as compared to the previous week.
Summary:

- Overall condition of the stress is lower compared to previous analysis cycle. Also most parts of Gujarat seems to have watch to stress as compared to week ending on 12th of August. But in southern districts it can be observed that there is a reduction in intensity of stress condition in current assessment.

- Overall, it can be observed that all districts have moved towards lower drought classes as compared to the previous week.
Summary:

- Overall, there is great reduction in drought condition from 12th July to end of August, except for northern regions.
Disclaimer

All content within this bulletin is based upon the most current available data. As the drought is a dynamic situation, the current realities may differ from what is depicted in this document. The product has not been validated and used only the weather forecast and remote sensing observation. We welcome the feedback from the end-users and request you to provide field observations and any other details which can improve the product quality and prediction skills in the near future.

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