

Monsoon and Sowing: Update

Rainfall is currently 4% above the LPA till 20 Aug 2024. Rainfall noted in the month of Aug'24 (till 20th) has even outpaced same period of last year. Out of 36 sub-divisions, 57% of the area of the country has received normal rainfall and 28% have witnessed higher than normal. With above normal rainfall, even Kharif sowing has improved compared with last year. Acreage of crops such as paddy and pulses have gained momentum, albeit less than normal sown area. What remains a cause for concern is that certain Southern and Western States are experiencing excess rains. These States are also major producers of perishable crops such as Tomato and Onion. Since this is the season of transplanting of some crops, some strain remains, at a time when prices have shown some downward correction.

Where does Kharif sowing stand?

As of 20 Aug 2024, overall sown area has improved by 2.1% compared with last year.

- Barring Jute and cotton, total sown area of other crops has inched up further. Most notable increase is visible in pulses (5.7%) and paddy (5.6%). This will help to keep a lid on inflation in these items, going forward, which are currently running at double digit pace.
- Within pulses, Arhar and Moong contributed to a significant increase in sowing.
- Oilseeds have also registered a 0.9% increase in sown area. Among major crops, Groundnut and Sunflower witnessed considerable momentum.
- Within Coarse Cereals, output of Ragi, Maize and Jowar has edged up.
- The overall sowing data, albeit showing improvement compared to last year, has been trailing behind normal sown area. This is led by pulses and paddy.

Table 1: Kharif Sowing

	Current, Inflation rate	Normal Sown Area 2024 (lakh ha)	Area sown in 2023-24 (lakh ha)	Area sown in 2024-25 (Lakh ha)	Growth (YoY %)
Coarse Cereals	8.5*	180.9	176.4	181.1	2.7
Paddy	10.9*	401.6	349.5	369.1	5.6
Pulses	14.8*	136.0	113.7	120.2	5.7
Oilseeds	-1.4*	190.2	185.1	186.8	0.9
Cotton	-1.5#	129.3	122.2	111.1	-9.1
Sugarcane	3.3#	55.4	57.1	57.7	1.0
Jute and Mesta	-3.2#	6.7	6.6	5.7	-13.1
All Crops	-	1100.1	1010.5	1031.6	2.1

Source: PIB, CMIE, CEIC, Bank of Baroda research | Data as of 20 Aug 2024, *CPI, #WPI

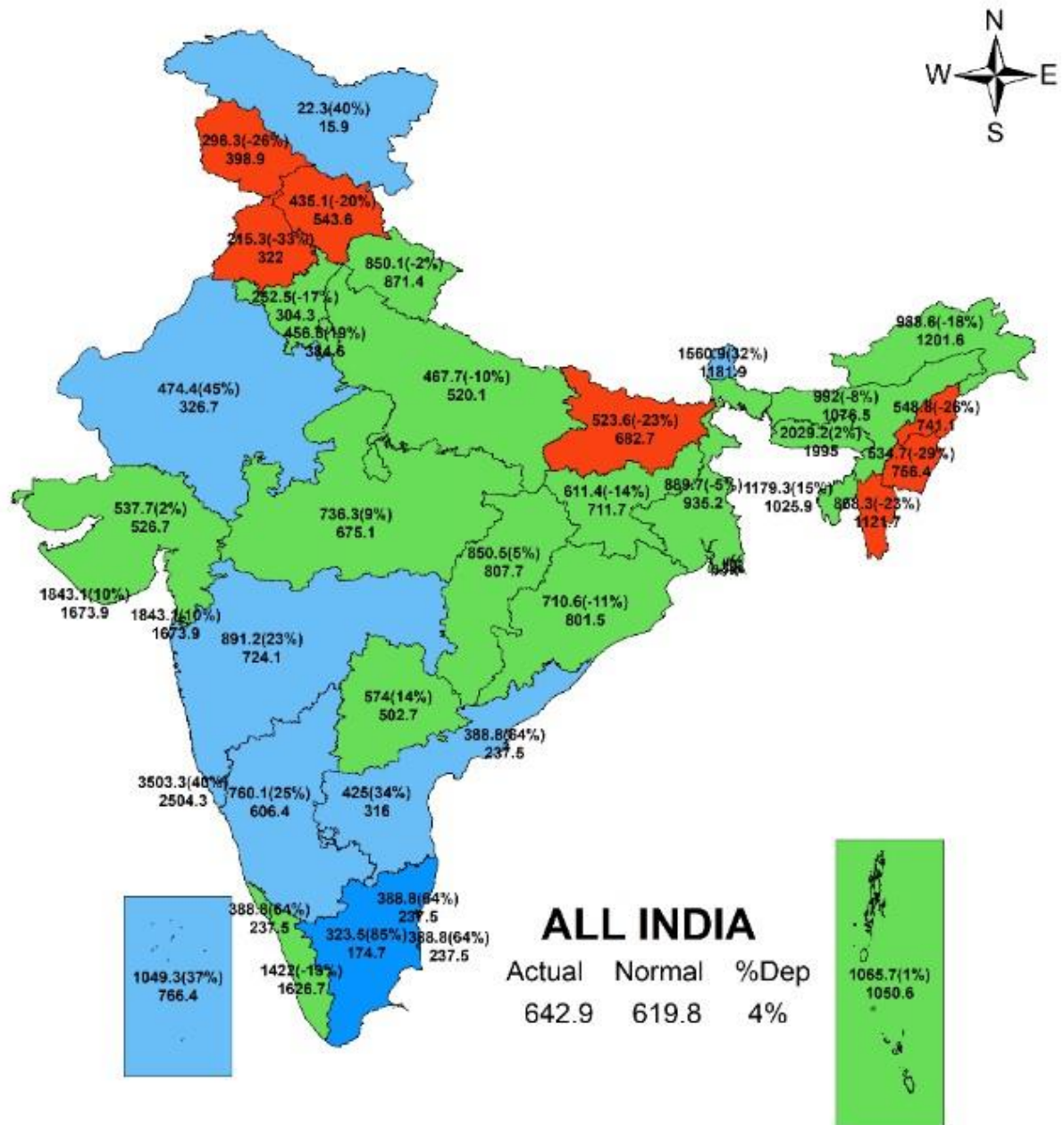
Monsoon:

For the period 1 Jun to 20 Aug 2024, Southwest Monsoon is 4% above LPA compared with last year.

- Most parts of the country, specifically, Central, Eastern and parts of North-Eastern regions continue to receive normal rainfall so far. These include states like Gujarat, M.P., Haryana, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.
- Kerala has also received normal rainfall.

- Some parts of the southern region of the country recorded excess rainfall. This includes states like Karnataka. This might be detrimental for certain perishable crops produced in the region such as Onion and Tomato.
- In contrast, J&K, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram have noted deficient rainfall till 20 Aug 2024.

Fig 1: Distribution pattern of South-West Monsoon



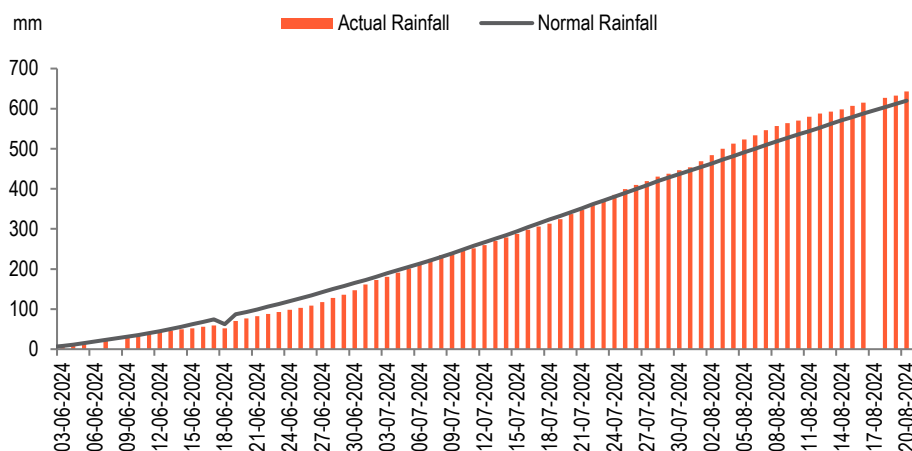
Source: IMD, Bank of Baroda Research | Period from 1 Jun-20 Aug 2024

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 on the higher side so far at 642.9mm, compared with 627.2mm last year. It is even higher than the normal rainfall received during this period.

Fig 2: Cumulative Distribution of rainfall



Source: CEIC, Bank of Baroda Research

Table 2 shows that most of the subdivisions have received normal rainfall, with only 15% of the country in deficit. Even the percentage receiving excess and large excess has been considerably higher, together at 28%. Amongst states, there are only 8 states that have received deficient rainfall during this period.

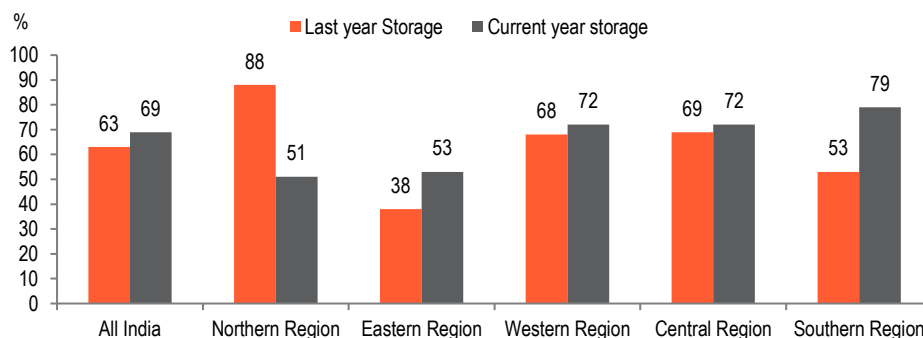
Table 2: Subdivision wise distribution of Rainfall

Period (1 Jun 2024-18 Aug 2024)	No. of Subdivisions	Sub divisional % area of Country
Large Excess	2	10
Excess	8	18
Normal	21	57
Deficient	5	15
Large Deficient	0	0
No Rain	0	0

Source: IMD, Bank of Baroda Research

Reservoir storage status: In terms of storage (**Fig 3**), the reservoir level as a % of total capacity stands at 69% as on 16 Aug 2024, slightly higher than last year's 63% last year. For the Southern region, it is considerably higher compared to the previous year. However, the Northern region trails considerably behind at 51%. Reservoir level in Eastern region is higher than last year despite far deviating from all India level.

Fig 3: Reservoir level across regions



Source: Central Water Commission, Bank of Baroda Research

Key points to note:

- Cumulatively (1 Jun-20 Aug 2024), India has received 642.9mm rainfall, higher compared with 627.2mm last year.
- Thus, South-west monsoon is 4% above LPA compared so far.
- With sowing nearing its end, acreage of overall crops has improved led by paddy, pulses. Despite this, the crops are trailing behind the normal sown area.
- What remains a concern is that major tomato and onion producing states such as Maharashtra and southern states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu are experiencing excess rainfall which might affect the transplanting of these perishable crops.
- As of 16 Aug 2024, water reservoir levels were higher than last year, with All India reservoir level at 69% of the total storage capacity versus 63% last year during the same period.

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For further details about this publication, please contact:

Economics Research Department
Bank of Baroda
chief.economist@bankofbaroda.com