

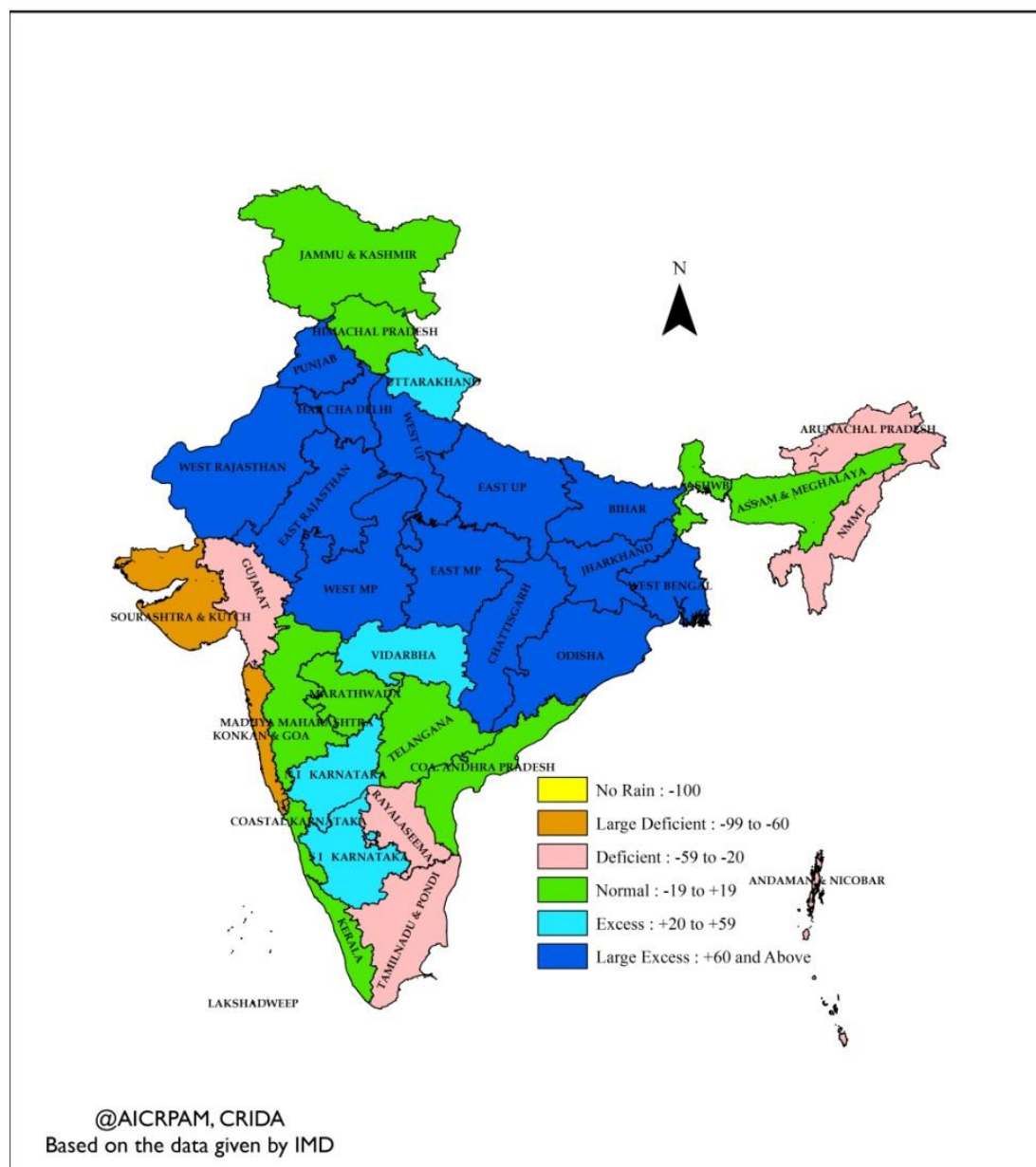
All India Coordinated Research Project on Agrometeorology (AICRPAM)

ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
Santoshnagar, Hyderabad – 500059

Weather conditions and Agromet Advisories Issued during May 2020

1. General Weather Conditions

During 1 March – 31 May 2020, the country as a whole received 158.5 mm rainfall, which is 20% excess, compared to the normal rainfall for the same period (131.7 mm). Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, rainfall was large excess, excess, normal, deficient, large deficient and no rain in 13, 4, 11, 6, 2 and 0 subdivisions, respectively as depicted in Fig. 1.



2. Agromet advisories issued by ICAR- All India Coordinated Research Project on Agrometeorology (AICRPAM) centers during May 2020

Date of issue	AICRPAM Center	Agromet Advisory issued
01-05-2020	Madhya Maharashtra	For control of tikka disease of groundnut, spray the crop with Mancozeb 2.5 g or Carbendazim 1 g mixed in 1 litre of water.
	Tamil Nadu	Due to anticipated weather condition, there is a chance of stem borer incidence in irrigated sorghum. To control, it is advised to apply Phorate 10 G 8 kg/ha or Carbofuran 3 G 17 kg/ha mix with sand to make up a total quantity of 50 kg/ha and apply on leaf whorls.
	West Bengal	Due to rainy weather condition, there is a chance of spread of yellow stem borer in late sown boro rice crop and Gundhi bug in timely sown crop. To control, application of Carbaryl or Fenvalerate is advised.
	Jammu	Due to light rainfall condition, it is advised to harvest and thresh the mature wheat crop during the clear weather. Store wheat grain after proper drying or less than 10 % moisture.
08-05-2020	Assam	To control rodent attack during the maturity period in boro rice, it is advised to prepare dry poison baits by mixing Atta/wheat bran/ maize crush 80g, jaggery 10g, dry fish 5g & Zinc Phosphide 5g and apply alongside the alleys in crop field.
	Uttar Pradesh	Due to rainy weather condition, it is advised to skip the irrigation in Zaid crops.
	Jharkhand	Under the prevailing weather condition, farmers are advised to go for planting of ginger crop with recommended varieties like Bardhwan, Suruchi, Nadiya, Suprabha.

15-05-2020	Kerala	Due to rainy weather condition, it is advised to bury fresh or dried coconut husk around the palm trees to conserve soil moisture.
	Marathwada	Due to increase in temperature, it is advised to provide shade and mulching in the newly planted or small plants of banana. Irrigate the banana orchard during early morning, at evening or night.
	South Interior Karnataka	Farmers may do summer ploughing for solarization which destroy eggs and pupating stages of insects and weed seeds underneath the surface.
	Punjab	Under the prevailing weather condition, it is advised to sow Bt cotton varieties. Recommended Bt varieties, Bt hybrids and non Bt hybrids of cotton viz. PAU Bt 1, F 2228, F2383, LH 2108, LH 2076 and LHH 144.
22-05-2020	Jammu	Ploughing of fallow land for soil solarization against insect pests and weed infestation is advised.
	Himachal Pradesh	It is advised to maintain room temperature of 18-22°C and relative humidity around 85% for successful cultivation of mushrooms.
	Hisar	Due to increase in day temperature, farmers are advised to apply light irrigation in planted vegetable crops and fruits plants as per requirement and harvest the mature vegetables during morning and evening hours.
	North Interior Karnataka	It is advised to plough fields and incorporate the crop residue to facilitate in situ conservation of water during the pre-monsoon rains and conserve the soil.
29-05-2020	Vidharbha	It is advised to monitor incidence of locust swarm in the region. If locust attack is found, farmers are advised to take the following measures (i) Make noise by different equipments. (ii) In the

29-05-2020		<p>evening/night swarms are lodged over trees and shrubs can be control by preparing smoke of rubber tyre or flame. (iii) Farmers are advised to spray of Neem based insecticides i.e. Azadirachtin 1500 ppm @ 30 ml or 5 % Neem Ark per 10 litre of water. (iv) Spraying should be done in late night or morning hours if possible. (v) Dusting should be done of Methyl parathion 2 % Powder @ 25 to 30 kg/ha. (vi) Recommended spraying as per the Insecticide control Board Chloropyriphos 20 E.C @ 24 ml or Chloropyriphos 50 E.C @ 10 ml or Deltamethrin 2.8 E.C. @ 10 ml or Fipronil 5 EC @ 2.5ml or Lambda Cyhalothrin 5 E.C. and 10 WP or Malathion 50 E.C. @ 37 ml per 10 litre of water.</p>
	Rajasthan	<p>For the management of locust attack, farmers are advised to make noise and sound to avoid settle down of locust in the field and spray of Malathion 50% EC @1850 ml/ha and give information to the agricultural authorities about the outbreak of locust in region.</p>
	Andhra Pradesh	<p>For the management of locust attack, farmers may be ready with Neem based pesticides to be sprayed on standing horticultural crops.</p>
	Chhattisgarh	<p>For the management of locust swarm, farmers are advised to spray Diflubenzuron 25% WP 10 g or Lambda Sihelothin 5% EC 400 ml or Cinelothin 10 % WP 200 g/ha or produce smoke by burning the grass and crop residues or making sounds to control the locust swarm.</p>
	Madhya Pradesh	<p>Monitoring of locust is advised by spraying insecticides as per the guidelines issued by the KVK of respective region. It occurred in north, north-west and north-east parts of the state affecting crop severely.</p>

General advisory issued for farmers regarding Covid-19

The health advisory guidelines issued by AICRPAM centres for the farmers are as follows:

- Maintain social distance while harvesting of *rabi* season crop as based on health advice issued by the Central Government. Farmers maintain a distance of at least 3 meters from each other while working, eating and drinking. Frequently wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds.
- Farmers are advised to follow the government/university guidelines, personal hygiene, use mask/homemade mask, ensure hand washing with soap at reasonable interval, social distancing during harvesting, sowing, eating the food, drinking water and other operation for kharif crops i.e. inter-cultural operation and related other agricultural operation in all crops. Frequently wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth while working.
- As per the advisories issued by the Government maintain social distancing during wheat harvesting add threshing, and other agricultural operations. Download Arogya Setu apps from your smart mobile phone and register in order to take self-assessment test and know about corona positive persons around you.
- The gunny bags should be dried in the sun so that eggs and pupating stages of insects as well as inoculum of diseases get destroyed. In the keeping the variable and dry weather farmer are advised to keeping the warm water and drink it at regular interval during harvesting & threshing the Rabi and sowing for the *kharif* crop or other operation.
- Do not share extra food, water or other drinking items among themselves.
- Don't burn the stubble of wheat, while, plough in the soil to increase the fertility of the soil. Before use tractor in the agricultural operation, keep tractor trolley, open well exposed intense sun light or blight sunlight upto 4 to 6 hours. After sun solarisation/heating of tractor trolley which use for the carrying harvested grains, gunny bags, wheat straw and marketing of grains or others.
- At entry point and at regular intervals Proper sanitation and cleanliness of threshers/combine harvester must be washing of machine as per the government advisories time to time. Also, machine should be park in the dry & hot air or open intense solar radiation so get it naturally heated and become natural sanitized.
- Do not exchange implements with fellow workers or farmers.
- Take proper diet.
- Sanitize the implements and machinery before use.
- If anyone feels fever, cough and difficulty in breathing he or she should consult a doctor. All farmers and farm workers are requested to download Aarogya Setu mobile application in their mobile phone.
- Please get yourself checked up, if you suffer from any Corona disease symptoms like cough, cold, fever or breathing problems and also inform if anybody in your neighborhood has such symptoms.
- Avoid conducting as well as participation in social gatherings like marriages, religious functions and marketing places.

Locust infestation as reported by AICRPAM centres

Massive swarms of desert locusts destroyed crops across western and central India, striking into mainly Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Vidharbha region of Maharashtra,. The insects have caused enormous damage to the seasonal crops in these states and devastated the farming community.

The desert locust entered into Western Rajasthan during 11-12 April 2020 and spread over large areas covering Eastern and Southern parts of Rajasthan and then entered into Madhya Pradesh via Pratapgarh and Banswara. So far 19 districts have been affected by locust and approximate 50,000 ha crops were damaged.

In Madhya Pradesh, locust entered in 16 districts namely Neemuch, Mandsaur, Sheopur, Morena, Tikamgarh, Panna, Chhattarpur, Sehore, Dewas, Raisen, Hoshangabad and Harda districts.

Due to the current wind direction, the swarms of locusts entered Amravati district of Maharashtra from Madhya Pradesh on May 24. The locusts also infested Vidharbha's Amravati, Wardha and Nagpur, damaging orange orchards and vegetable fields. Locust also attacked 2 square kilometer area in Rajura bazaar, Morangna Village around centre area of Warud tahsil in Amravati and migrated towards Jalalkheda in Nagpur district.

In Gujarat, locusts attack was observed in districts of North Gujarat, Kutch, Saurashtra (in Morbi, Bhavnagar, Surendranagar and Amreli districts).

In Haryana, there are no reports of locust swarms as on 29-5-2020. The border districts of western Haryana including Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar, Bhiwani, Dadri, Mahendergarh, Rewari and Mewat are more prone to infestation of the insect with westerly winds.

As per the officials of the UP government, a swarm of locusts had made its way to Jhansi district on Wednesday 27 May. The swarm spread was over an area of about one square kilometre. Other districts in the region are also on alert.