

ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture

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Answer to the Lok Sabha Q Dy. No. 1673

- a) **Whether the rainfall in the country as of June, 2018 was below normal with 5% deficit which leads to slow down in sowing of kharif crops, 46% less than that of last year across the country ?**

Yes. The actual rainfall received during country as a whole during as of 30 June 2018 was 115.3 mm rainfall, which was 5% deficit compared to the normal rainfall for the same period (163.6 mm). However, it cannot be termed as 'below normal' as per the criteria set by India Meteorological Department (IMD) (+19% to -19% is termed as 'normal' by IMD).

As per the information released by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare on 29th June 2018, the status of kharif sowing when compared to previous year is as follows:

Particular	Area sown (In lakh hectare)		Per cent difference compared to kharif 2017
	Kharif 2018	Kharif 2017	
Total area sown as on 29-06-2018	165.21	210.75	-21.6%
Total area sown as on 06-07-2018	333.78	388.88	-14.2%

Therefore, area sown under all the kharif crops over the country as a whole was 21.6% and -14.2% less than that of corresponding dates of 2017 (i.e. 29 June and 06 July).