

**F.NO. 3-1/2007-NCFC – E&S
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION
(NATIONAL CROP FORECASTING CENTRE)**

Room no. 344-A, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated, the 05th March, 2008

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CROP WEATHER WATCH GROUP HELD
ON 29.02.2008.**

A copy of the summary proceedings of the meeting of Crop Weather Watch Group held on 29th February, 2008 is enclosed. This issues with the approval of the Chairman.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CROP WEATHER WATCH GROUP HELD ON
22.02.2008.**

The weekly meeting of the Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) was held on 22.02.2008 under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Ray, Economics & Statistical Adviser, Directorate of Economics & Statistics. The Agenda included discussion on weather, progress in crop sowing, availability of inputs, pest situation, price and procurement position. Salient aspects of the meeting are given from page 3 onwards.

The All-India crop situation is given at page 9.

Summary observations of the Group on Agenda Items.

- *Isolated/ scattered rain/snowfall occurred over Western Himalayan Region and Jammu & Kashmir and isolated/scattered rain/thundershowers occurred over Coastal Orissa, Gangetic West Bengal, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Northeastern States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands during the week.*
- *The area sown as reported on 29.02.2008 under Rabi (foodgrains & nine oilseeds) crops stood at 608.84 lakh hectares, which is 107.7% of normal and is 3.1 percent less than the previous year (628.22 lakh hectares).*
- *The incidence of pest & diseases generally remained below Economic Threshold Level (ETL) for most of the crops.*
- *In general fertilizer is reported to be available in adequate quantity.*
- *The all-commodity inflation rate based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) on a point to point basis for the week ending 16.02.2008 increased by 0.54% percentage points to 4.89% from the previous week level of 4.35%. The inflation rate was 6.05% during the corresponding period last year.*

Action Points Which emerged in the meeting

1. *The CWC provides the live water status in 81 major reservoirs in the country. Some of these reservoirs are only Hydel projects. The representative from CWC was requested to also compile information in respect of reservoirs, which are used for irrigation purposes.*

(Action: CWC)

Action Points pending from the previous meetings

1. *The Chairman advised the representatives from Fertilizer Division to bring Statewise consumption & prices of different fertilizers during last 5 years.*

(Action: Fertilizer Division, DAC)

2. *The PPQ&S Dte. was advised to have a report on damage to Potato in different States due to frost conditions.*

(Action: PPQ &S Dte.)

3. *The Chairman observed that to assess the current utility of water in reservoirs it is desirable that CWC also gives the minimum and maximum storage in the major reservoirs during the last 10 years.*

(Action : CWC)

4. *The information about Agricultural Credit & Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) issued to farmers given by RBI is incomplete. The Chairman again requested the representative of the RBI that complete information particularly Advance & KCCs issued to small & marginal farmers in all States may be provided to the Group.*

(Action : RBI)

Salient aspects of discussions / presentations in the meeting

Rainfall & Temperature (As reported by India Meteorological Department, (IMD))

Winter Rainfall (January – February) during the week ending on 29th February, 2008

- **Isolated / Scattered rain/snowfall** occurred over Western Himalayan region during 22nd to 24th February, 08 and only over Jammu & Kashmir on 26th February, 08.
- **Isolated / scattered rain/thundershowers** occurred over Coastal Orissa and Gangetic West Bengal on 21st February, 08, over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim on 24th & 25th February, 08, over Northeastern States on 25th & 26th February, 08 and Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 26th – 27th Feb., 2008.
- Mainly **dry weather** prevailed over remaining parts of the country during the week.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **rainfall during the week** was excess / normal in 2 sub-divisions, deficient / scanty in 11 sub-divisions and no rain in 23 met sub-divisions.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **cumulative winter rainfall (1st January to 27th February, 2008)** at the end of the week was in excess / normal in 15; deficient / scanty in 19 sub-divisions and no rain in 2 met sub-divisions.

Table-1: Weekly and Cumulative Rainfall in four regions of the country ¹

Region	Week Ending (27.02.08)				Cumulative (01.01.08 to 27.02.08)			
	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.
	Actual	Normal			Actual	Normal		
North-West India	3.9	10.8	-64	S	78.8	81.3	-3	N
Central India	0.1	2.4	-95	S	10.2	18.7	-46	D
South Peninsular India	0.1	2.5	-96	S	32.1	15.9	103	E
North-East India	3.0	8.3	-63	S	51.3	48.3	6	N
Country as a whole	1.7	5.9	-71	S	42.2	42.1	0	N

E: Excess, N: Normal, D: Deficient, S: Scanty, NR: No Rain.

Source: India Meteorological Department, New Delhi

1. North-west India - Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir.
Central India - Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Gujarat

South Peninsula - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep.

North-east India - Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Temperature

- The minimum temperatures were **below normal by 2-4°C** over East India during many days of the week. They were **above normal by 2-5°C** over Northwest India during first half of the week. They fell thereafter and were **3-4°C below normal** towards the end of the week.
- They were **above normal by 2-3°C** over Northwest India during first half of the week and **below normal by 2-3°C** during second half of the week over central India and South Peninsula.
- They were **above normal by 2-3°C** over Gujarat and Konkan & Goa during many days of the week.
- They were near normal over the remaining parts of the country during the week.

***Weather Outlook / Forecast for the period 29th February - 06th March, 2008 by
IMD & NCMRWF***

Outlook for the Week Ending 05th March, 2008

- *The current meteorological analysis suggests that the present scenario of higher day temperatures over and outside Western Himalayan region is likely to continue for next 3 days, even with a possibility of further rise by about 2°C.*
- *A feeble Western Disturbance is likely to cause isolated to scattered precipitation over Western Himalayan Region from 1st March to 4th March causing a fall in maximum temperatures.*
- *Numerical Weather Prediction models suggest that isolated to scattered thundershowers activity is likely over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim and northeastern states from 2nd March onwards.*
- *Isolated to scattered rain/thundershowers are likely over Andaman & Nicobar Islands and extreme South Peninsula.*
- *A Cyclonic Circulation is expected to develop over SE Arabian Sea around 4th March, 08.*

Zone-wise Weather Forecast:

North & North-West India (J&K, HP, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, West UP)

- *Isolated to scattered snowfall/rain is likely over J&K , H.P. during 1st - 2nd March, 08 and scattered during 4th - 5th March 08.*
- *Mainly dry weather is likely over rest of the region.*
- ***Expectations of hailstorm in some areas.***

East & NE India (East UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa, NE States)

- *Isolated to scattered thundershowers/rain is likely over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and NE states during 4th - 5th March, 08.*
- *Mainly dry weather is expected over rest of the region.*

Central India (MP, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha)

- *Mainly dry weather is expected over the region.*
- *Day and night temperatures are likely to increase .*

South India (Tamil Nadu, AP, Kerala, Karnataka, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep)

- *Isolated rain/thundershowers are likely over South Tamilnadu. Scattered rain/thundershowers are likely during 4-5 March, 08.*
- *Mainly dry weather is likely over rest of the region.*

West India (Maharashtra, Other than Vidarbha, Gujarat, Rajasthan)

- *Mainly dry weather is expected over the region.*

Reservoir Status (For the week ending on 28.02.2008)

- The **Central Water Commission** monitors the live storage of **81** important/major reservoirs, having Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of **151.77** billion cubic meters (BCM), which is about 72% of total reservoir capacity in the country.
- Water stock in 81 major reservoirs decreased to 61.80 BCM. Current storage is less than the last year's position of 69.43 BCM and more than the average of last 10 year's storage of 53.03 BCM.

Table – 2: For 81 major reservoirs of the country

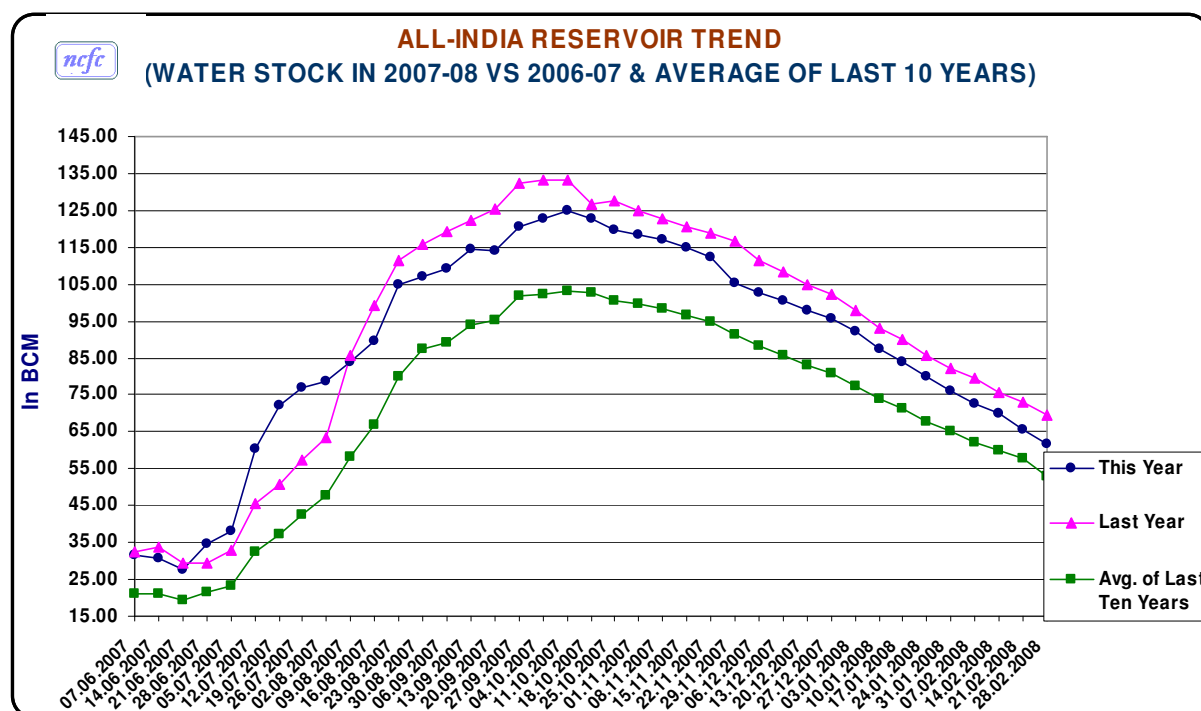
Period	Current Year's Storage as % of FRL*	Current Year's storage as % of last year	Current year as a % of 10 years average level
Current Week	41	89	117
Last Week	43	90	114

The percentage to live capacity at FRL was 46% on 28/02/2007, 41% on 28/02/2006, 27% on 27/02/2005 and 26% on 28/02/2004 .

* *Live storage as % to Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 151.77 Billion Cub. Mts.(BCM)*

Source: CWC

- There were 67 reservoirs having storage more than 80%, 6 reservoirs having storage between 50% to 80% of Normal Storage and 7 reservoirs having storage between 30% to 50% of Normal Storage.
- There was one reservoir namely Sholayar (TN) having storage below 30% of normal storage.



Source: Central Water Commission

Fertilizer Position:

Table – 3: Requirement, Availability, Sales and Stock position of Major Fertilizers Urea, DAP and MOP during 1st to 25th February, 2008

(in '000 Tonnes)

<i>Availability / Sale / Closing Stock</i>	<i>Urea</i>	<i>DAP</i>	<i>MOP</i>
<i>Requirement for March, 2008</i>	<i>1236</i>	<i>414</i>	<i>189</i>
<i>Availability during 1st to 25th Feb., 08</i>	<i>3105</i>	<i>610</i>	<i>258</i>
<i>Sales during 1st to 25th Feb., 08</i>	<i>1158</i>	<i>243</i>	<i>145</i>
<i>Closing Stock as on 25.02.2008</i>	<i>1947</i>	<i>367</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>Requirement for February, 2008</i>	<i>1888</i>	<i>430</i>	<i>307</i>

Source: Fertilizer Division (DAC) / Deptt. of Fertilizer

Pest & Diseases:

- The incidence of pest & diseases generally remained below Economic Threshold Level (ETL) for most of the crops.
- No shortage of Chemical / Bio-pesticides reported from any State / UT.

Table:4

All India Crop Situation - Rabi (2007-08) as on 29-02-2008								
Crop Name	Normal Area	Area sown reported			Change vis-à-vis prev. year		Remarks	
		This Year	% of Normal	Last Year	Absolute	Percentage		Changes in major States (abs. %)
Wheat	262.00	277.35	105.9	282.14	-4.79	-1.7	Bih (-0.6, -2.3), Guj (+1.9, +16.1), Har (+1.0, +4.0), MP (-5.6, -13.1), Maha(+0.2, +1.8), Raj (+0.3, +1.2), UP (-2.4, -2.6), WB (+0.5, +14.3)	
Rice	37.32	38.08	102.0	35.92	2.16	6.0	AP (+1.0, +8.6), Ass (+0.3, +17.6), Bih (+0.1, +7.7), Kar (+0.4, +14.2), TN (+0.1, +6.2), WB (+0.1, +0.7)	
Jowar	50.29	46.74	92.9	49.39	-2.65	-5.4	AP(-0.4, -15.2), Kar (-0.2, -1.3), Maha (-1.8, -5.8), TN (-0.3, -6.7)	
Maize	7.45	10.55	141.6	10.20	0.35	3.4	AP (+0.8, +37.4), Bih (-0.6, -15.1), Guj (+0.1, +17.9)	
Barley	6.53	7.56	115.8	7.88	-0.32	-4.1	MP (-0.2, -24.1), Raj (-0.1, -3.0)	
Total Coarse Cereals	64.27	67.99	105.8	70.54	-2.55	-3.6	AP (+0.3, +6.9), Bih (-0.6, -14.6), Kar (-0.3, -2.4), Maha (-1.8, -5.8)	
Total Cereals	363.59	383.42	105.5	388.60	-5.18	-1.3		
Gram	66.02	80.34	121.7	84.02	-3.68	-4.4	Ass(-0.4, -100.0), Chhat (+0.3, +10.9), Guj (+0.2, +7.3), Jhar (-0.2, -31.5), Kar (-0.6, -7.8), MP (-2.9, -10.6), Maha (+0.4, +3.2), Raj (+1.3, +11.1), UP (-2.0, -24.6)	
Lentil	14.44	14.01	97.0	15.46	-1.46	-9.4	Bih (-0.3, -10.1), MP (-0.4, -7.9), UP (-0.8, -12.2)	
Peas	7.18	6.76	94.2	8.22	-1.47	-17.8	MP (-0.5, -19.9), UP(-1.0, -24.2)	
Kulthi(Horse Gram)	3.20	5.69	177.8	6.24	-0.55	-8.7	Kar (-1.0, -43.5), TN (+0.5, +143.2)	
Urad	7.53	8.32	110.5	8.11	0.21	2.5	AP (-0.2, -4.9), Ass (+0.4, +100.0)	
Moong	6.04	6.46	106.9	6.69	-0.23	-3.5	AP (-0.2, -19.5), Ass (+0.1, +100.0), TN(-0.3, -31.8), WB (+0.1, +100.0)	
Lathyrus	6.49	5.24	80.8	4.50	0.74	16.5	Chhat (+0.3, +6.5), WB (+0.5, +100.0)	
Total Pulses	113.53	133.64	117.7	141.18	-7.55	-5.3	AP (-0.5, -3.7), Chhat (+0.7, +7.8), Jhar (-0.4, -31.7), Kar (-1.5, -13.9), MP (-3.7, -10.5), Maha(+0.4, +2.7), Raj (+1.3, +10.6), UP (-3.8, -20.3)	
Total Foodgrains	477.12	517.06	108.4	529.78	-12.73	-2.4		
Rapeseed & Mustard	59.28	59.60	100.5	66.06	-6.46	-9.8	Ass (-0.2, -6.8), Bih (-0.3, -15.8), Guj (-0.2, -5.3), Har (-0.8, -12.7), MP (-1.6, -22.4), Raj (-4.2, -14.4), UP (+0.2, +3.0), WB (+0.2, +3.4)	
Groundnut	8.16	10.42	127.7	9.04	1.38	15.3	AP (+0.4, +18.7), Guj (+0.7, +208.6), Kar (+0.1, +4.7), TN (+0.1, +4.8)	
Safflower	3.74	3.15	84.2	3.41	-0.26	-7.6	Kar (-0.1, -14.9), Maha (-0.2, -7.3),	
Sunflower	12.16	10.61	87.3	12.12	-1.51	-12.5	Kar (-1.0, -16.4), Maha (-0.5, -25.4)	
Sesamum	16.77	1.51	9.0	1.47	0.04	2.7	AP (-0.1, -42.3), TN (+0.2, +30.0)	
Linseed	4.70	4.88	103.9	5.18	-0.30	-5.8	MP(-0.2, -14.6), UP (-0.1, -24.4)	
Total Oilseed (Nine)	88.04	91.78	104.3	98.44	-6.66	-6.8	Ass (-0.2, -6.3), Bih (-0.3, -14.3), Chhat (+0.3, +9.0), Guj (+0.6, +15.4), Har(-0.6, -10.4), Kar (-1.1, -12.0), MP (-1.4, -15.5), Maha (-0.8, -14.1), Raj (-4.2, -14.4), TN (+0.4, +10.5),	
All- Crops	565.15	608.84	107.7	628.22	-19.39	-3.1		

Source: Crops & TMOP Divisions, DAC

Price Situation of Agricultural Commodities as submitted by the Department of Consumer Affairs

Inflation

The all-commodity inflation rate based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) on a point to point basis for the week ending 16.02.2008 increased by 0.54% percentage points to 4.89% from the previous week level of 4.35%. The inflation rate was 6.05% during the corresponding period last year.

Table – 5: Retail prices of Essential Agricultural Commodities at Delhi

(Rs. Per Kg.)						
Items	Current price 28.02.08	1 week ago 21.02.08	Fortnight ago 14.02.08	1 month ago 28.01.08	1 year ago 28.02.07	% Variation 28.02.08 over 28.02.07
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Rice	18.00	18.00	17.50	17.00	15.00	20.0
Wheat	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	12.00	8.3
Atta	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	13.00	7.7
Gram Dal	37.00	34.00	34.00	35.00	35.00	5.7
Tur Dal	42.00	41.00	41.00	42.00	35.00	20.0
Sugar	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	18.00	-5.6
Groundnut Oil	121.00	121.00	121.00	121.00	96.00	26.0
Mustard Oil	72.00	70.00	70.00	69.00	56.00	28.6
Vanaspati	68.00	68.00	68.00	67.00	56.00	21.4
Tea (Loose)	108.00	107.00	108.00	107.00	109.50	-1.4
Milk	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	18.00	11.1
Potato	8.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	7.00	14.3
Onion	9.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	15.00	-40.0

- Source : Department of food and Civil Supplies, Delhi

During the week, prices of the many essential agricultural commodities namely Rice, Wheat, Atta, Sugar, Groundnut Oil, Vanaspati, Milk and Potato remained at the same level as they were last week. Rise in prices was noted in **Gram dal** (Rs. 3.00 per kg, 8.8%), **Tur dal** (Re. 1.00 per kg, 2.4%), **Mustard oil** (Rs. 2.00 per kg, 2.9%), **Tea (Loose)** (Re. 1.00 per kg, 0.9%) and **Onion** (Re. 1.00 per kg, 12.5%).

As compared to the last year price, increase in prices was noted in **Rice** (Rs. 3.00 per kg, 20.0%), **Wheat** (Re. 1.00 per kg, 8.3%), **Atta** (Re. 1.00 per kg, 7.7%), **Gram dal** (Rs. 2.00 per kg, 5.7%), **Tur dal** (Rs. 7.00 per kg, 20.0%), **Mustard Oil** (Rs. 16.00 per ltr., 28.6%), **Groundnut oil** (Rs. 25.00 per ltr, 26.0%), **Vanaspati** (Rs. 12.00 per ltr, 21.4%), **Potato** (Re. 1.00 per kg, 14.3%) and **Milk** (Rs. 2.00 per ltr, 11.1%) and decrease in price of **Sugar** (Re. 1.00 per kg, (-)5.6%), **Tea (Loose)** (Rs. 1.50 per kg, (-)1.4%) and **Onion** (Rs. 6.00 per kg, (-)40.0%) was observed.

Procurement :**Table – 6: Progressive procurement of Rice as on 29.02.2008 (lakh tonnes)**

State	Total procurement in marketing season 2006-07 (Oct. – Sept.)	Progressive Procurement as on 29.02.2008	
		In Marketing season 2007-2008	In Marketing season 2006-2007
Andhra Pradesh	53.27	30.63	23.27
Chhattisgarh	28.58	25.97	24.86
Haryana	17.73	15.60	17.62
Kerala	1.51	0.59	0.58
Maharashtra	0.96	1.20	0.86
Orissa	19.93	14.15	11.69
Punjab	78.28	76.42	77.00
Tamil Nadu	10.78	5.43	7.92
Uttar Pradesh	25.49	23.72	20.35
Uttaranchal	1.76	1.38	1.49
West Bengal	6.44	2.83	3.44
All-India	250.75	201.54	193.33