

**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 12th March, 2008

**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CROP WEATHER WATCH GROUP HELD
ON 07.03.2008.**

Presentations in the meeting

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

Winter Rainfall (January – February) during the week ending on 05th March, 2008

- **Isolated /scattered rain/thundershower** occurred over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu and Kerala on many days of the week.
- **Isolated rain/thundershowers** occurred over Jammu & Kashmir during 3rd-5th March, 08 and Gangetic West Bengal and North Coastal Orissa on 5th March 2008.
- **A fresh spell of rain/thundershower** commenced from 3rd March 2008 with **isolated rain/thundershower activity** over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya.
- **The rain/thundershower activity was scattered** over the above sub-division and **isolated** over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on 4th & 5th March 2008.
- Mainly **dry weather** prevailed over remaining parts of the country during the week.
- **Isolated fog conditions in the morning hours developed over Punjab and Haryana during the week.**
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **rainfall during the week** was excess / normal in 5 sub-divisions, deficient / scanty in 3 sub-divisions and no rain in 28 met sub-divisions.
- Out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, **cumulative winter rainfall (1st January to 29th February, 2008)** was in excess / normal in 16; deficient / scanty in 18 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 (05.03.08)				Cumulative (01.01.08 to 29.02.08)			
	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.	(in mm)		Devi. (%)	Cat.
	Actual	Normal			Actual	Normal		
North-West India	0.2	8.5	-98	S	79.2	83.6	-5	N
Central India	0.0	2.0	-100	NR	10.1	19.0	-47	D
South Peninsular India	1.5	1.9	-24	D	32.5	16.0	104	E
North-East India	5.3	8.6	-38	D	53.0	49.8	6	N
Country as a whole	1.2	5.1	-76	S	42.6	43.2	-1	N

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

Source: India Meteorological Department, New Delhi

Temperature

Minimum

- The minimum temperatures were **below normal by 2-3°C** over many parts in the plains of northwest India, Saurashtra & Kutch, East Rajasthan and North Madhya Pradesh in the beginning of the week. With the **gradual rise in temperature, they were above normal by 2-5°C** over these regions during 2nd-5th March, 08.
- They were **above normal over West Rajasthan by 2-6°C** during the week.
- They were **below normal by 2-4°C** over remaining parts of west and central India and Northern parts of the interior Peninsula during many days of the week.
- They were **below normal by 2-5°C** on 28-29th February and 4-5th March over southeast Peninsula covering Tamil Nadu, Rayalaseema & South Interior Karnataka.
- They were **below normal by 2-4°C** over many parts of East India excluding Coastal Orissa, West Bengal & Sikkim during 28th February to 2nd March, 08 and were near normal thereafter.
- They were **below normal by 2-3 °C** over West Bengal & Sikkim and Northeastern States during 28-29th Feb, 08 and were near normal thereafter.
- They were **near normal** over remaining parts of the country during the week.

Maximum

- The maximum temperatures were **above normal by 2-8°C** over Northwest India, Rajasthan, Gujarat and central India during many days of the week.
- They were also **above normal by 2-3°C** over Northeastern States and some parts of East India on a few days of the week.
- They were nearly normal over the remaining parts of the country during the week.

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.

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

Outlook for the Week Ending 12th March, 2008

- *Under the influence of the western disturbance, **isolated to scattered** precipitation is likely to commence over Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh from 6th March, 08 with increase in activity from 9th March, 08. **Isolated to scattered** rain/thundershowers are also likely over remaining parts of Northwest India and Rajasthan commencing from 9th March, 08.*
- *A Western Disturbance is likely to affect J&K and H.P from 9th March, 08 and move slowly in an Eastward direction*
- *Decrease in maximum temperature over the plains of Northwest India, Rajasthan and adjoining central India from 9th March, 08.*
- *Isolated to scattered rain/thundershowers are likely over Andaman & Nicobar Islands and extreme South Peninsula.*
- *Decrease in rain/thundershower activity over Northeast India.*

Zone-wise Weather Forecast:

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

- *Scattered snowfall/rain is likely over J&K, H.P. and Uttaranchal during 9th-11th March, 08.*
- *Isolated rainfall is also likely over Punjab, North Rajasthan and Haryana, Delhi during 10th - 11th March, 08.*
- *Mainly dry weather is likely over rest of the region*

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

- *Isolated to scattered thundershowers/rain is likely over East U.P., Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and NE states around 10th 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.*

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

- *Scattered rain/thundershowers are likely over Nicobar and south Tamilnadu and Kerala during 10th – 12th March, 08.*
- *Isolated rainfall is likely over north Tamilnadu.*
- *Mainly dry weather is likely over rest of the region.*

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

- *Isolated rainfall is likely over North Rajasthan during 8th -9th March, 08.*
- *Mainly dry weather is expected over rest of the region.*

Reservoir Status (For the week ending on 07.03.2008)

- 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 59.09 BCM. Current storage is less than the last year's position of 67.33 BCM and more than the average of last 10 year's storage of 50.99 BCM.

Table – 2: For 81 major reservoirs of the country

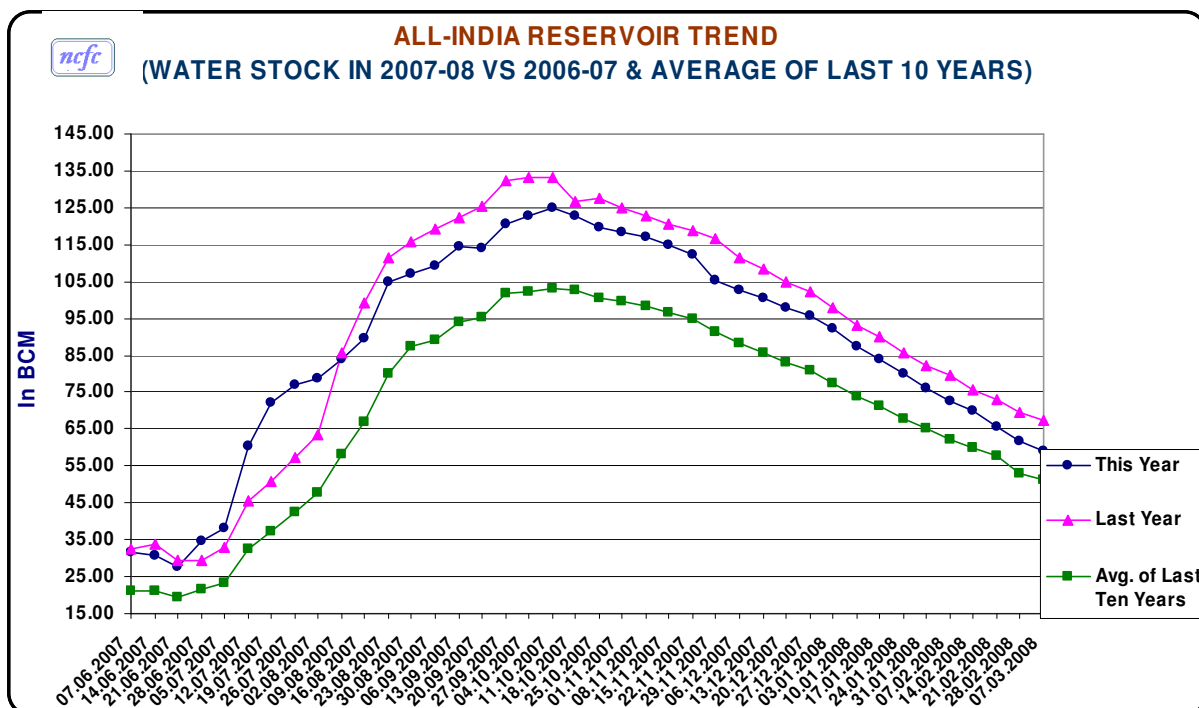
Period	Current Year's Storage as % of FRL*	Current Year's storage as % of last year	Current year as a % of 10 years average level
Current Week	39	88	116
Last Week	41	89	117

The percentage to live capacity at FRL was 44% on 07/03/2007, 38% on 07/03/2006, 26% on 07/03/2005 and 24% on 07/03/2004 .

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

Source: CWC

- There were 66 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 were two reservoirs namely Jhakam (Raj) and Konar (Jhar) 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 29th 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 29th Feb., 08</i>	<i>3459</i>	<i>663</i>	<i>302</i>
<i>Sales during 1st to 29th Feb., 08</i>	<i>1889</i>	<i>355</i>	<i>218</i>
<i>Closing Stock as on 29.02.2008</i>	<i>1570</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>84</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 07-03-2008								
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	38.87	104.2	37.47	1.40	3.7	AP (+0.7, +5.3), Ass (+0.3, +17.6), Kar (+0.4, +14.2), Ori (-0.3, -12.1), TN (+0.1, +7.4), 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	10.56	141.7	10.20	0.36	3.5	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	68.00	105.8	70.55	-2.55	-3.6	AP (+0.3, +6.9), Bih (-0.6, -14.6), Kar (-0.3, -2.4), MP (-0.2, -23.2), Maha (-1.8, -5.8)	
Total Cereals	363.59	384.22	105.7	390.16	-5.94	-1.5		
Gram	66.02	80.34	121.7	84.02	-3.68	-4.4	Ass(-0.4, -100.0), Chhat (+0.3, +10.9), 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	-17.9	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	517.86	108.5	531.34	-13.49	-2.5		
Rapeseed & Mustard	59.28	59.61	100.6	66.06	-6.45	-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	11.03	135.2	10.03	1.00	10.0	AP (+0.4, +18.7), Guj (+0.2, +21.3), Kar (+0.1, +6.5), Maha (-0.2, -26.6), TN (+0.4, +14.0)	
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	10.83	89.1	12.36	-1.53	-12.4	AP (-0.2, 5.8), Har (+0.1, +185.7), Kar (-1.0, -16.4), Maha (-0.6, -26.7), TN (+0.1, +87.5)	
Sesamum	16.77	1.98	11.8	2.13	-0.15	-7.0	TN (-0.2, -33.3)	
Linseed	4.70	4.89	104.1	5.18	-0.29	-5.6	MP(-0.2, -14.6), UP (-0.1, -24.4)	
Total Oilseed (Nine)	88.04	93.04	105.7	100.33	-7.29	-7.3	Bih (-0.3, -14.3), Chhatt (+0.2, +8.2), Har (-0.6, -10.4), Kar (-1.0, -11.7), MP (-1.4, -15.5), Maha (-1.1, -17.5), Raj (-4.2, -14.4), TN (+0.3, +7.6), WB (+0.4, +6.7)	
All- Crops	565.15	610.90	108.1	631.67	-20.78	-3.3		

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 23.02.2008 increased by 0.13% percentage points to 5.02% from the previous week level of 4.89%. The inflation rate was 6.20% during the corresponding period last year.

The inflation rate in respect of (a) Primary articles group increased by 1.39% to 6.28%, (b) Manufactured products group declined by 0.29% to 4.33% and (c) Fuel, power, light and lubricant group remained unchanged at the previous week's level of 5.64%. The share of these three groups in inflation during this weekend stood in the order of 28.32%, 47.96% and 24.39%.

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

(Rs. Per Kg.)						
Items	Current price 05.03.08	1 week ago 28.02.08	Fortnight ago 21.02.08	1 month ago 05.02.08	1 year ago 05.03.07	% Variation 05.03.08 over 05.03.07
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Rice	18.00	18.00	18.00	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	39.00	37.00	34.00	35.00	34.00	14.7
Tur Dal	42.00	42.00	41.00	41.00	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	97.00	24.7
Mustard Oil	87.00	72.00	70.00	69.00	56.00	55.4
Vanaspati	79.00	68.00	68.00	68.00	56.00	41.1
Tea (Loose)	108.00	108.00	107.00	107.00	109.50	-1.4
Milk	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	18.00	11.1
Potato	8.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	21.4
Onion	8.50	9.00	8.00	9.00	15.50	-45.2

- Source : Department of food and Civil Supplies, Delhi

During the week, prices of the many essential agricultural commodities namely Rice, Wheat, Atta, Tur dal, Sugar, Groundnut Oil, Tea (Loose) and Milk remained at the same level as they were last week. Rise in prices was noted in **Gram dal** (Rs. 2.00 per kg, 5.4%), **Mustard oil** (Rs. 15.00 per kg, 20.8%), **Vanaspati** (Rs. 11.00 per kg, 16.2%) and **Potato** (50 paise per kg, 6.3%). Fall in price was noted in **Onion** (50 paise per kg, 5.6%).

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. 5.00 per kg, 14.7%), **Tur dal** (Rs. 7.00 per kg, 20.0%), **Mustard Oil** (Rs. 31.00 per ltr., 55.4%), **Groundnut oil** (Rs. 24.00 per ltr, 24.7%), **Vanaspati** (Rs. 23.00 per ltr, 41.1%), **Potato** (Rs. 1.50 per kg, 21.4%) 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. 7.00 per kg, (-)45.2%) was observed.

Procurement :**Table – 6: Progressive procurement of Rice as on 07.03.2008 (lakh tonnes)**

State	Total procurement in marketing season 2006-07 (Oct. – Sept.)	Progressive Procurement as on 07.03.2008	
		In Marketing season 2007-2008	In Marketing season 2006-2007
Andhra Pradesh	53.27	32.18	24.04
Chhattisgarh	28.58	26.20	24.86
Haryana	17.73	15.62	17.62
Kerala	1.51	0.62	0.58
Maharashtra	0.96	1.21	0.86
Orissa	19.93	14.50	11.93
Punjab	78.28	76.76	77.12
Tamil Nadu	10.78	5.76	8.17
Uttar Pradesh	25.49	24.67	20.37
Uttaranchal	1.76	1.43	1.57
West Bengal	6.44	3.05	3.71
All-India	250.75	205.97	195.38