

Agriculture

Production and growth

Monsoon-2003

After extreme monsoon aberration of the year 2002, which resulted in one of the severest droughts in the recent past, the 2003 monsoon rainfall (June-September) was normal for the country as a whole, with seasonal precipitation at 102 per cent of its Long Period Average (LPA). The aggregate rainfall in 2003 was 92.2 centimeters against the LPA of 90.3 centimeters (Table 8.1).

8.2 The monsoon, delayed by a week, reached Kerala on June 8, 2003 and covered the entire country by July 5, 2003. Subsequent rainfalls were in general well distributed over time and space. However, certain regions of the country namely, interior

Karnataka, Kerala and southern parts of Madhya Maharashtra received deficient rainfall in the season. At the end of the monsoon season, 33 out of 36 Met sub-divisions had normal to excess rainfall, and 75 per cent of meteorological districts received normal/excess rainfall.

8.3 According to the Long Range Forecast of rainfall for the 2004 South-West Monsoon season (June-September) made by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), overall rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 100 per cent of the LPA with a model error of 4 per cent on both sides. The cumulative rainfall in the pre-monsoon period March-May 2004 at 16.2 cms was 125 per cent of the normal rainfall (12.9 cms).

**Table 8.1 : Monsoon performance: 1997 to 2003
(June – September)**

Year	Number of meteorological sub-divisions			Percentage of districts with normal/excess rainfall	Percentage of long period average rainfall for the country as a whole
	Normal	Excess	Deficient/scanty		
1997	26	6	3	81	102
1998	20	13	2	81	106
1999	25	3	7	67	96
2000	23	5	7	66	92
2001	29	1	5	68	92
2002	14	1	21	44	81
2003	26	7	3	75	102

Source : India Meteorological Department.