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## Sowing area of Kharif crops 1.55 pc lower than last year so far: Govt data

Area sown to summer crops like paddy was lagging behind by 1.55 per cent at 1,043.87 lakh hectare so far in the ongoing Kharif season of the crop year 2021-22 (July-June), according to data released by the agriculture ministry on Sunday. Sowing operation is still underway and planting of summer (Kharif) crops can be continued till the end of August, it said.

Farmers had planted summer (Kharif) crops in 1,060.37 lakh hectare in the year-ago period.

Sowing of Kharif crops begins with the onset of southwest monsoon from June. Monsoon rainfall was lower eight per cent between June 1 and August 20, the ministry said.

However, water storage available in 130 reservoirs in the country was 96 per cent of live storage in the corresponding period of last year, and 99 per cent storage of average in the last 10 years, as per the Central Water Commission, it added.

According to the ministry, "sowing is still going on" in states growing Kharif crops with "occurrence of monsoon rains in many states".

A majority of states have informed the central government that the sowing of Kharif crops, particularly paddy, urad, moong and sesamum castor, can be continued up to the end of August, it said



**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ua4EW5P3iEunLpVafqJkwwODov8JYMxl/view?usp=sharing>

## Are farmers reaping the benefit of PM Fasal Bima Yojana?

Poor on-ground infrastructure, format and execution keep small time farmers out of the crop insurance network

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) launched in 2016-17 is globally the largest crop insurance scheme in terms of farmer participation and the third largest in terms of the premium according to the Central government.

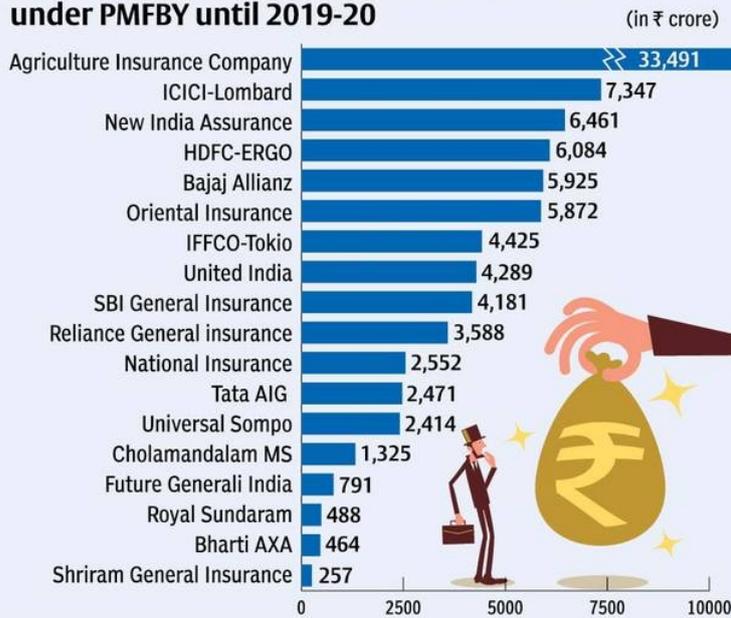


Over 5.5 crore farmer applications are received on a year-on-year basis, and till date, the scheme has insured over 29.16 crore farmer applications. Over the period of five years, more than 8.3 crore farmer applications have benefited from the scheme.

A major chunk of smaller farmers, however, still remain out of the crop insurance network. The percentage of marginal farmers in the scheme has seen a decline from 18.08 per cent to 16.55 per cent for Kharif between 2018 and 2020. The participation of small farmers in the scheme is between 63-68 per cent.

While the Central government wants to expand the scheme, farmers seem to be unhappy with its current format and execution.

### Total claims paid by Insurance Companies under PMFBY until 2019-20



Source: Rajya Sabha July 2021

[Read More: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sGmjVsNosnw7sfP1E5ZeerTwtSKKpnW/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sGmjVsNosnw7sfP1E5ZeerTwtSKKpnW/view?usp=sharing)

### Insurers cut exposure to govt's flagship crop cover scheme PMFBY : Gross premium underwritten by general insurers has fallen by 12.37% to `4,221 crore in the four-month period ended July 2021 as against `4,817 crore in the year-ago period.

Domestic general insurance companies are gradually reducing their exposure to the crop insurance segment, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), in a bid to balance their portfolios and cut down losses on account of high claims, even as the Centre made the scheme optional and slashed its contribution

Gross premium underwritten by general insurers has fallen by 12.37 per cent to Rs 4,221 crore in the four-month period ended July 2021 as against Rs 4,817 crore in the year-ago period.

This follows the 16.76 per cent decline in crop insurance premium to Rs 19,071 crore (excluding Agriculture Insurance Corporation) in the fiscal ended March 2021 as against Rs 22,911 crore in the previous year, according to figures available from General Insurance Council (GI Council).

Public sector insurance firms - particularly country's largest general insurer, New India Assurance - have almost reduced their exposure to nil in the four months of the current financial year. All the four PSU insurers - New India Assurance, United India Insurance, National Insurance and Oriental Insurance - have a combined exposure of just Rs 3.8 crore in the period.

Private sector general insurers like ICICI Lombard General Insurance and Tata AIG had exited the portfolio two years back. ICICI Lombard General Insurance had said it is exiting in the wake of losses and high reinsurance costs.

Launched in February 2016, PMFBY witnessed huge claims of over 100 per cent in the first few years, leading to losses for insurers. Even GIC Re, which was earlier bullish on the portfolio, has cut down its exposure drastically after it was hit with heavy losses in the last two years. In the June quarter, the reinsurer slashed its crop portfolio by 23 per cent to year-on-year to Rs 5,312 crore but has achieved profitability in the portfolio.

[Read More: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mYScKkpH5USVuoXNIISYrDa7FijB6LHt/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mYScKkpH5USVuoXNIISYrDa7FijB6LHt/view?usp=sharing)

### Centre rethinking Beed formula as states get large premium refunds

Meanwhile, insurers have approached states like Uttar Pradesh urging them to adopt the Beed formula for next year's crop and offered to reduce their guaranteed premium share to 10% from the current 20% under the 80-110 plan, sources say.

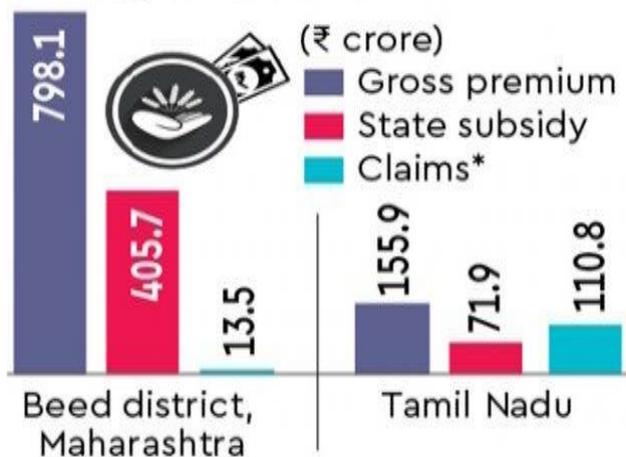
The Centre, in July, had written to states seeking their views on including the 'Beed formula' as an option under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana amid several states developing cold feet on the flagship scheme

After offering the so-call 'Beed formula' as an alternative model in crop insurance to retain the states' participation, the Centre is now reconsidering the 80-110 plan, given that some states have started securing refunds of major shares of the gross premiums collectively paid by the Centre and states. The Centre apprehends that state governments and insurers are acting in concert to understate the insurance claims by farmers. The formula is a win-win for states and insurers as the former gets large premium refunds – as high as 153% of the premium paid by the state government in Maharashtra's Beed district in the current Kharif season, for instance – and the insurers get assured return of 20% of the gross premium.



According to sources, the Centre has written to both Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh, which have adopted Beed formula in many districts of the states, stating that “the reimbursements above state share of subsidy will be refunded to government of India as well” in case claim to premium ratio is very low. The Centre, in July, had written to states seeking their views on including the ‘Beed formula’ as an option under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana amid several states developing cold feet on the flagship scheme

### “80-110” plan under PMFBY during Kharif 2020



\*As on August 16, 2021: \*In the case of Beed more than **78% of the gross premium** (including the Centre’s share) or **153% of the premium** paid by Maharashtra govt will be returned to the state \*As for TN, the state will get back **10% of gross premium**, or **22% of the premium paid** by the state.

Under the ‘Beed formula’, also known as 80-110 plan, the insurer’s potential losses are circumscribed – the firm won’t have to entertain claims above 110% of the gross premium. The insurer will refund the premium surplus (gross premium minus claims) exceeding 20% of gross premium to the state government. Of course, the state government has to bear the cost of any claims above 110% of the premium collected to insulate the insurer from losses, but such higher level of claims rarely occur, so the states reckon the formula in effect reduces their cost to run the scheme.

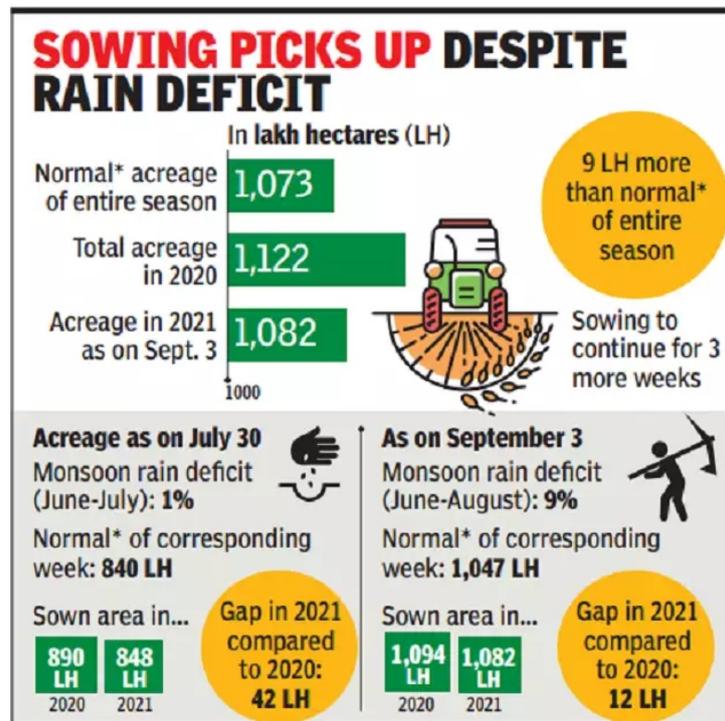
**Read More:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/19oC480SD26zg\\_vkQVe5ajPWWIq6l0og/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19oC480SD26zg_vkQVe5ajPWWIq6l0og/view?usp=sharing)

### Kharif holds promise amid skewed rains

In what could signal another good crop year of foodgrain production in the country despite skewed rainfall distribution, sowing of kharif (summer sown) crops has almost caught up with the sown area of last year’s corresponding period, with minimum three weeks of seasonal operation still in hand.

Latest sown area data of agriculture ministry shows that the acreage of Kharif crops (paddy, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, maize and other coarse cereals), as on last Friday, for the first time this season crossed the total average acreage of first time this season crossed the total average acreage of the entire sowing season.

As of last Friday, the kharif acreage stood at 1,082 lakh hectares which was merely 40 lakh hectares less than the total acreage (1,122 lakh hectares) of summer sown crops in 2020. Officials tracking the sowing operation believe that this gap can easily be bridged in the next three weeks as this period is also expected to get good monsoon rains.



Though it had crossed the ‘normal’ acreage threshold of ‘corresponding period’ almost a month ago, the higher than ‘normal’ sown area of the entire season by nearly nine lakh hectares indicates that the overall sown area may almost touch the record level of last year by end of this month. “It has already crossed the ‘normal’ acreage threshold, giving a good sign of recovery in the past one months despite a huge monsoon rain deficit of over 24% in August. As sowing operation continues, the overall sown area figure will definitely reach close to the 2020 mark,” said an official.

Asked about the reason for the good progress despite the rain deficit, the official added, “It’s possible due to drought-proofing (setting up irrigation infrastructure) of northwest India which depends less on monsoon compared to rainfed areas of central India. Besides, farmers are also gradually switching from water-guzzler paddy to less water-consuming crops such as coarse cereals and pulses in the region.”

**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cjAFAR4LHwsv9MpK6Fysi5kqCZ9YYshg/view?usp=sharing>



## New and improved scheme for crop insurance: Finance Minister

Finance Minister P.T.R. Palanivel Thiagarajan on Monday said the government had finalised a new and improved scheme for providing compensation to farmers under national crop insurance programme.

“Our Chief Minister has finalised it. We also raised same complaints when in the Opposition and are not changing it because we have become a ruling party,” he said responding to the DMK MLA S. Damodaran, who complained about the problems in the insurance scheme.

Mr. Rajan said the Agriculture Minister would give the details in his reply to the debate on agriculture budget.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/new-and-improved-scheme-for-crop-insurance-finance-minister/article35948813.ece/amp/>

## 93% of Landless Farmers In Odisha Opted PM Fasal Bima Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been on the crest of a wave in Odisha. The State broke into the top league in Kharif 2020, when it finished 2nd in the country in terms of the insured cultivable area in the country. A huge 47.2 lakh of around 51 lakh farmers in the State have taken up the crop insurance scheme.

In his address to the nation on 75th I-Day today, PM Narendra Modi spoke about how the crop insurance scheme is driving home the policy vision of "Chhote Kisan Bane Desh Ki Shaan" - (Making marginal/small farmers the pride of the nation)

Consider the Odisha scorecard. Only in 2018, a mere 1 in every 10 landless farmers in the State could register themselves under the Central government's crop insurance scheme. Two years down the line, a whopping 9 in every 10 landless farmers in the State had registered under the scheme to cover their crop losses due to uneven disasters (natural + pest).

As per the data available with the Union Ministry of Agriculture, in the year 2018-19, the total landless farmers registered under the crop insurance scheme in the State stood at around 1.729 lakh when as per Odisha government records the State had over 7 lakh landless farmers (share-cropper and tenant farmers).

However, the count had posted a sharp jump in the year 2019-20. Now, a massive of over 6.48 lakh landless farmers in the State had registered under the crop insurance scheme in the State - which is nearly 93 per cent of the total landless farmers in the State.

### PMFBY's Growing Success

After the launch of the scheme in February 2016, the total cultivable area insured in Odisha during the Kharif 2016 was a mere 17.7 lakh hectares. Cut to Kharif 2020, the insured area in hectares stood at a massive 86.8 lakh hectare.

**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zkcd8XiJ2YCT6Djos32Kf7Y6Eh3PF23h/view?usp=sharing>

## Database of 8 crores land-owning farmers to be ready by December

As part of India's ongoing plan to create a digital ecosystem for the farm sector, a centralised database, Agri Stack, of eight crore farmers will be ready by December by linking their all relevant details including land records This database will generate unique IDs, like 'Aadhaar', for land-owning farmers in due course.

“Database of 5.5 crore farmers has already been created. It will be increased to 8 crore farmers by December with the help of state governments. The database will be made available to state and central agencies for taking farmer-friendly decisions and implementing various schemes,” said agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

Addressing a virtual conference of state agriculture ministers and a few chief ministers, Tomar underlined the importance of such databases for "targeted service delivery" with higher efficiency and time bound manner, and said agriculture has to be linked with digital technology, scientific research and knowledge to promote 'digital agriculture' in the country.

**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PqFRP5bRp3PZUIYI0rb4oG3OZJY6PNOr/view?usp=sharing>





## Over 7 lakh farmers call insurance firms to inform about crop damages due to excessive rain

Representatives of crop insurance companies need to personally visit the farms and assess the damages, and based on their report, the farmers will get the insurance amount

More than seven lakh farmers in Maharashtra have called up insurance companies during the current monsoon season to inform about crop damage due to excessive rainfall, officials said.

Representatives of crop insurance companies need to personally visit the farms and assess the damages, and based on their report, the farmers will get the insurance amount, they said.

"A total of 2,56,985 were received till August 1 from farmers across Maharashtra intimating about extremely heavy rains that led to damage of crops. The number of such calls increased to 4,15,747 by September 1 and reached 5,53,491 on September 9. In last two days, the number of such calls reached over seven lakh," State Agricultural Commissioner's Chief Statistical Officer Vinaykumar Awate told PTI.

The figures could increase further as the data of calls made during the weekend will be updated in the system on September 13, the official said. Besides crop damage, the farmers also informed about washing away of their farm soil, damages caused to cattle sheds and other issues, he said.

The number of such calls from farmers jumped drastically after heavy rains lashed the State's Marathwada region last week, he said.

**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CDmAXIfNZdYgJznaG63M6Ygk sedpTGqG/view?usp=sharing>

## Parl panel flags decreasing coverage under fasal bima scheme

A parliamentary panel has pointed out falling footprints of the Centre's flagship crop insurance scheme and expressed concerns over its withdrawal or non-implementation in seven states, saying more such examples in subsequent years and "delay in settlement of claims" will defeat its very purpose.

The standing committee on agriculture, in its report tabled in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, said that though most of the withdrawing states are implementing their own schemes, the central government must properly look into the reasons/factors leading to the withdrawal or non-implementation of its Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

Punjab had never joined this central crop insurance scheme, which provides insurance coverage to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities, whereas Bihar and West Bengal had withdrawn from it in 2018 and 2019 respectively. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana and Jharkhand did not implement the scheme last year. The states cited "financial constraints" and "low claim ratio during normal

seasons" as the major reasons for non-implementation of the scheme.

**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EwpQRjpc8RJuxohBTurX60qpyLfhHneX/view?usp=sharing>

## Special drive launched to bring more farmers under PM crop cover scheme

In a major farmer outreach, the government on Thursday launched a special drive to enrol more cultivators under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

In a major farmer outreach, the government on Thursday launched a special drive to enrol more cultivators under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

A week-long drive, starting July 1, will cover all notified areas under the Kharif 2021 season with special focus on 75 aspirational districts where crop insurance penetration is low.



PMFBY, launched on January 13, 2016, aims to provide a comprehensive risk solution to farmers at the lowest uniform premium across the country. Launching the special drive, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said so far 29.16 crore farmers have insured their crops under the PMFBY.

More than Rs 95,000 crore worth of claims have been provided to farmers since the launch of the scheme, against the total premium of Rs 17,000 crore paid by them, he said. However, there is a need to expand the scheme in the country so that the crop insurance coverage can be increased and more farmers get benefits, an official statement quoted the minister as saying.

**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qylxP5IqUP-LITn4sx1e0EHcO6Zxp3Ws/view?usp=sharing>

## Rains stutter, 50% crop loss feared

Erratic rains have saddled the farmers in the state with the prospect of 50% crop loss. Farmers in northern and central parts of Gujarat and in swathes of Saurashtra have suffered the hardest hit.

The ground water level has gone down drastically in many parts of the state, causing further hardships to farmers.



Hirjibhai Rathod, a farmer with substantial land in Jethakuba in Lodhika taluka of Rajkot, said: “We depend on rains. The water level has gone down now.” He added: “Farmers grew crops where water was available. Now with the rains being delayed, crops such as groundnut are likely to fail.”

According to agriculture department officials, the sowing of groundnut in the last week of June was done across 9.99 lakh hectares. They said that cotton was sown over 11.46 lakh hectares. Farmers who had opted to sow early are those who are anticipating crop failure. The groundnut crops that have started growing will be too small to fetch good value.



Crop	Area of sowing (in lakh ha)		
	Normal	2021	2020
Groundnut	16.9	19	20.4
Cotton	25.5	22.4	22.4
Soybean	1.2	2.2	1.4
Castor	6.3	2.1	1.8
Paddy	8.3	7.4	6.2
Sesame	1.1	0.8	1.3
Vegetables	2.4	2.2	1.9
Other crops	23.5	19.4	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>74.9</b>



“There is no water in the fields, so cotton and groundnut crops have started dying. To save the crops, farmers are heavily drawing underground water”  
**Bhikhabhai Jhagadia** | FARMER



“Crops are dying in areas where there is no irrigation facility. Fields on the banks of check dams have fared better, but farmers in the interiors are facing a crisis”  
**Vithalbai Dudhatra** | FARMER LEADER

**Read More:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/rains-stutter-50-crop-loss-feared/articleshow/85382733.cms>

### Crop loss imminent as IMD rules out rainfall till August-end in Odisha :However, the intensity of rainfall decreased due to the weakening of the low pressure system in August

With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday ruling out the possibility of any significant rainfall in the State till the end of August, drought seems to have become imminent. IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told media persons that 27 districts of the State have received 33 per cent less than the normal rainfall from June to August and deficit

rainfall in August was 55 per cent. The rainfall this monsoon is normal in only Koraput, Malkangiri and Nuapada districts. Normally, monsoon rain in Odisha is triggered by low pressure over Bay of Bengal. On an average, 13 low pressures were formed between June and August. Widespread rainfall was reported from across the State in July due to five low pressures.

However, the intensity of rainfall decreased due to the weakening of the low pressure system in August. Though two low pressures occurred, one triggered rains in some parts of the State while the other moved to Bangladesh.

The low pressure that formed off southern Odisha coast was active and the rainfall under its impact was limited to two to three days as the system weakened, said Mohapatra. There will be no noticeable change in the situation in the State as there are no possibilities of formation of a low pressure system in the next five days

**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DZ6x9Em3WcAsLhlnqhpHG-xTu158nyB2/view?usp=sharing>

### Insurers rolling in money raised for crop cover : When the gross premium collected by insurance firms is more than the total value of the claims settled, you know insurance is a profitable business

When the gross premium collected by insurance firms is more than the total value of the claims settled, you know insurance is a profitable business. But when insurance companies appear to be rolling in money generated from farmers’ meagre premiums for covering their crops even after settling their loss claims, you wonder what’s happening.

Take the Centre’s ambitious PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The gross premiums received by insurance companies under the scheme over the last five years is Rs 1.26 lakh crore, but farmers got just Rs 87,320 crore as claims (see table). The difference is a cool Rs 40,000 crore. Surely a farm welfare scheme ought not to benefit the insurance firm, certainly not by such a big margin?

The huge profit the insurance firms are enjoying actually comes from the government, as under the PMFBY, a uniform maximum premium of only 2% of the sum insured is paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. The rest is borne by the state and the Centre

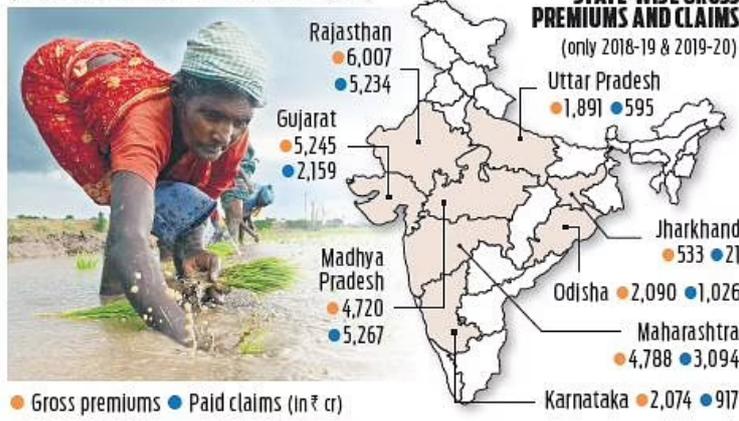
Agriculture policy expert Devinder Sharma said there are many flaws in the crop insurance scheme, adding it needs an overhaul. “It looks like that it is for the benefit of insurance companies. There is a complete need to overhaul and redesign it. Many states opting out of the scheme is a clear indication of it,” he said.

Sharma said new technological innovations should be used for clear assessment of claims to be paid to the farmers. “Drones should be used for assessment.



STATUS REPORT OF PMFBY SCHEME						
YEAR	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	TOTAL
Farmers Insured (in lakh)	583.7	533	576.2	608.8	398.1	2,699.8
Area insured (in lakh hect)	567.3	508.3	523	494.8	261.2	2,354.6
Gross premium (in crore)	21,770	24,649	29,348	31,709	19,047	1,26,523
Paid Claims (in crore)	16,758	22,113	27,491	20,943	15	87,320

(2020-21 data is only for Kharif season)



## Despite erratic rainfall, farmers bring more area under Kharif pulses

Skymet-Gramcover sees rise in yields of pulses, despite delayed sowing

Notwithstanding the erratic rainfall pattern, farmers have brought in an additional area of two per cent under Kharif pulses such as tur, urad and moong this year.

**Read More:** <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/despite-erratic-rainfall-farmers-bring-more-area-under-kharif-pulses/article36439126.ece>

## Is it time for severe drought in India's northeast and northwest? : September rain will not be enough to compensate for deficient rainfall in northwest and northeast states of India, says IMD forecast



September rain will not be enough to compensate for the deficient rainfall in Odisha, Gujarat and states in the North East, according to the latest forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The IMD forecast for September, the last month of the four-month season, has indicated normal rain. "Rainfall averaged over the country in September 2021 is most likely to be above normal (> 110 per cent of long period average)," said the forecast released September 1 morning.

At the end of August, that covered three months of the monsoon season, rainfall in India was deficient by 10 per cent. However, the spatial distribution of rainfall has been widely diverse. By August end, 10 Union territories / states experienced rain deficit of 23-52 per cent. Most of these states were in the northeast and northwest regions.

Manipur, for instance, reported a 58 per cent deficit rainfall by August-end; Gujarat received 50 per cent less rainfall than normal. In the eastern region, Odisha experienced 29 per cent deficit rain and Kerala received 22 per cent less rainfall than normal.

To put it in perspective, more than 36 per cent of India's total districts received less rainfall than normal. "Normal to below-normal rainfall is most likely to continue over many areas of northwest and northeast India and southern most parts of peninsular India," the IMD statement read.

**Read More:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XC51sC91hjdUE1ej0GdwAa8Np\\_tOF3tC/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XC51sC91hjdUE1ej0GdwAa8Np_tOF3tC/view?usp=sharing)

Why are they not applying the per unit area yardstick for assessment of crop loss and claims? There are flaws in the method of assessment," he pointed out.

**Read More:** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/aug/23/insurers-rolling-in-money-raised-for-crop-cover-2348407.html>

## Digitizing agriculture

Various technology and agribusiness organisations have come forward and have shown their interest in digital agriculture. Let us see some available solutions:

1. AI-enabled device and software to check water and soil health. It performs immediate chemical analysis of sample and gives colorimetric test results in less than 10 seconds. A start-up came out with a mobile application to timely identify disease of their crops and start its treatment.
2. Few IT-enabled services for farm equipment which help farmers to take required machinery on rent through a phone call or mobile app. Allowing farmers to take cost conscious decision.
3. Drones are being used in agriculture sector for anti-locust spraying. This has been proven an effective solution to kill locust who have been dangerous enemy of our yield in farms. Another usage of drones is in digital mapping of property falling within geographical limits of villages.
4. A pocket-sized machine with AI-based spectral and AI-based image analytics is developed to analyse quality of crops within 30 seconds. It can also provide information about chemical composition and presence of adulteration in honey and milk.

The above advantages, innovations and bright solutions are only one side of the coin. There are some serious issues related to digital agriculture in India. The average farm size available with Indian farmer is extremely less when compared to farmers in Australia, US or Europe.

**Read More:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/agryeya/digitizing-agriculture/>



## Release of chemicals by industries: Farmers' body seeks compensation over crop loss in Bharuch

“The affected area of plantation of cotton is around 70,000 hectares and approx. 50,000 farmers have lost almost all the crops from such a big area in Bharuch and Vadodara region. (Vagra, Amod, Bharuch, Jambusar, Karjan Talukas are worst affected),” said farmer's body president.

President of Khedut Samaj Gujarat (KSG), a farmer's body, Jayesh Patel, has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting interim relief of Rs 1 lakh per hectare for around 50,000 farmers in Bharuch over crop loss due to the release of Chemical Phenoxy compounds in the air by chemical industries in the district.

In the letter, a copy of which is with Indian Express, Patel said, “The Dahej Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region, GIDC of Dahej and Vilayat has highly hazardous mega chemical production companies in the district, mostly producing pesticides, pharmaceuticals petrochemicals, chemicals, metals, power plant chemicals in huge amounts. he non-compliance of various environmental safeguards, iolation of air Act and non-measurement of the toxic chemicals present in the air have harmed the local environment severely. The release release of certain chemical phenoxy compounds has caused a loss of agricultural crops in the entire Bharuch. Mostly cotton and pigeon pea crops in 70,000 hectares has been affected and farmers have been forced to destroy the deformed crops.”

“The affected area of plantation of cotton is around 70,000 hectares and approx. 50,000 farmers have lost almost all the crops from such a big area in Bharuch and Vadodara region. (Vagra, Amod, Bharuch, Jambusar, Karjan Talukas are worst affected),” he added.

**Read More:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/release-of-chemicals-by-industries-farmers-body-seeks-compensation-over-crop-loss-in-bharuch-7446392/>

## Heavy Rainfall in September May Impact Kharif Crop: IMD

The above-average rainfall in September will affect the Kharif crop if not spread equally as predicted by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). Agriculture experts claimed rain now supports oilseed cultivations such as groundnut, soybean, pulses, bajra, cotton and paddy, but that, if the rain is excessive, it would damage the crops by selling up their prices till the end of September.

While the Kharif season started off well with a timely monsoon and good sowing, patchy rains in July and August delayed the pace of sowing in some regions of the country. On September 2, 108.15 million hectares of Kharif crops had been planted, down 0.82 percent from the same date the previous year.

“Rainfall in June was relatively good, remaining 10% above normal in most parts of the country.

The north-eastern region of the country saw a substantial shortfall in July, with levels 7 percent below normal. However, the situation began to deteriorate in August, resulting in significant rainfall shortages in the eastern half of central India as well as parts of western India,” according to D S Pai, IMD's head of Climate Research and Services.

Hetal Gandhi, Director at Crisil Research said “As per Crisil's on-ground interactions, paddy and bajra in Haryana will benefit from these rains. In Gujarat, though such rains will be beneficial for few days, if it continues throughout the month, it may negatively impact yields of groundnut, acreage for which is already lower by 8-9% on year in the state.”

**Read More:** <https://krishijagran.com/news/heavy-rainfall-in-september-may-impact-kharif-crop-imd/>

## Gujarat, western Rajasthan face drought-like conditions: IMD data : The standard precipitation index (SPI) for many parts of Gujarat and West Rajasthan is in “severely dry” to “moderately dry” categories.

According to IMD, Odisha has recorded a 31% rain deficiency, Gujarat 47%, Kerala 28%, Manipur 58%, Arunachal Pradesh 25%, Mizoram 28% and Nagaland 24%.(File Photo/REUTERS

Drought-like conditions are setting in over most parts of Gujarat, west Rajasthan and some districts of Odisha that have recorded significant rain deficiency during monsoon.



The standard precipitation index (SPI) for many parts of Gujarat and West Rajasthan is in “severely dry” to “moderately dry” categories. Districts worst affected in these two states are Sabarkanta, Dahod, Panchmahal, Vadodara, Banaskanta, Udaipur, Rajasmand, Jalor etc. Several districts in Odisha, including Kendujhar, Baleshwar, Bhadrak, Angul and Sambalpur, are in “extremely dry” to “severely dry” categories, according to SPI data for August maintained by the India Meteorological Department. SPI is an index used to monitor droughts.

Several parts of the northeast particularly in Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh are also in “extremely dry” category while Palakkad, Mallapuram, Kollam, Kasargod and Kannur in Kerala, and parts of neighbouring Karnataka are also in “extremely dry” to “severely dry” categories.

**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lr7DmWsyZZJhUIE6xjyg-Yt0CHKWIBrT/view?usp=sharing>



## Monsoon likely to withdraw late this year, Met predicts; more rain in store

Normally, around six depressions form through the course of the monsoon season, but this time the first monsoon depression is likely to form only in the next 24 to 48 hours

The monsoon has entered an active phase from Saturday because of a low-pressure system that will travel across central and northwest India, bringing the region widespread and heavy rain over the next four to five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned on Saturday.

The monsoon starts waning in September and usually begins withdrawing from September 17. But the Met department's extended range forecast indicates that there is likely to be widespread rain over the country, including northwest India, till around September 30.

**Read More:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iloPKbxvC6G\\_0e\\_DyR7RZMa6qju nbH1D/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iloPKbxvC6G_0e_DyR7RZMa6qju nbH1D/view?usp=sharing)

## Centre to cross check farmers land records before paddy procurement from October

In a first, the Centre has decided to cross check land records before the procurement of paddy from next month in a bid to ensure the MSP reaches farmers and not traders, food secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said on Monday.

Most procuring states, barring Assam and Uttarakhand as well as Jammu and Kashmir, are ready and have also integrated digital land records with the Centre's nodal procurement agency Food Corporation of India (FCI) for this purpose, he told reporters.

**Read More:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bdzywzd3pYB0sf9IHQtESrb7IZNF40EO/view?usp=sharing>

## Waterlogging: Over 21K Haryana farmers seek crop loss relief

Over 21,000 farmers have sought compensation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana (PMFBY) for the losses suffered by them for their cotton and bajra crops in Rohtak, hajjar, Rewari and Mahendragarh districts due to the accumulation of rainwater in their fields in the past 10 days.

In Rewari district, around 12,000 farmers have filed complaints with the Agriculture Department, while 4,800 complaints from Jhajjar, 3,000 from Mahendragarh and 1,800 from Rohtak district have been received.

The farmers are bound to file a complaint within 72 hours of the losses to get compensation. "There are 82 villages in Rewari district from where complaints of waterlogging in more than 25 per cent of the total insured area under the PMFBY have been received. Among these, 48 villages are located in the Jatusana block, 15 villages in Nahar, 10 villages in Rewari and eight villages are in the Khol block.

**Read More:** <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/waterlogging-over-21k-see-crop-loss-relief-311374>



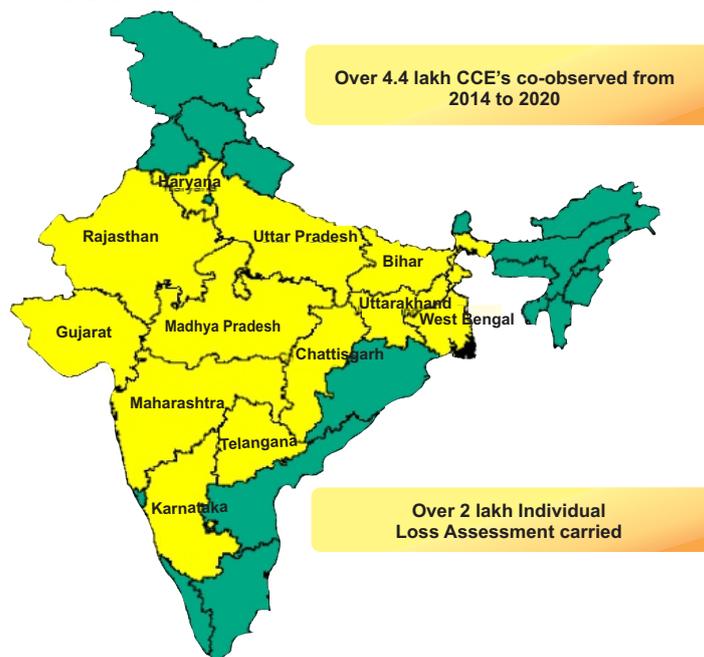
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