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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

Royal Government of Bhutan

Tashichhodzong, Thimphu: Bhutan



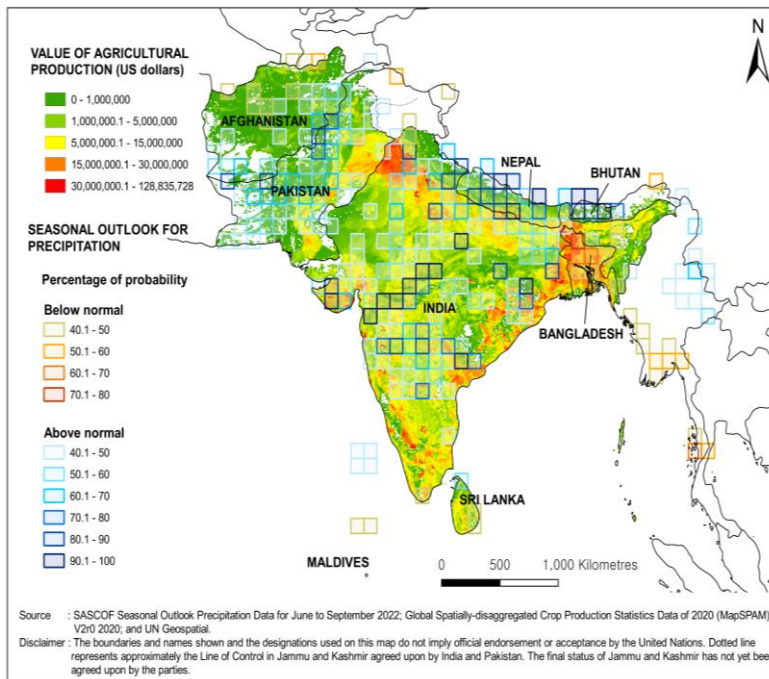
10 June 2022

Agrometeorological Advisory for Monsoon 2022

The National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) prepared and released the weather outlook for 2022 monsoon or summer season on 27th May 2022 during the 8th National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF). As per the outlook following precipitation and temperature patterns are forecasted:

- The rainfall forecast during the June-September (JJAS) monsoon season is most likely to be **slightly above normal**.
- The temperature forecast for the country during summer months is also expected to be **slightly above normal**.

Note: Normal is the average rainfall & temperature (minimum and maximum) for the summer season (JJAS) from 1996-2021.



Similarly, with the use of impact-based forecasting techniques the Climate User Group Forum (CSUF) at the 22nd South Asian Climate Outlook forum (SASCOF-22) predicated that in total about **41.3%** of South Asia agricultural value or **42.0%** of its agricultural production quantity is likely to be exposed to above-normal precipitation. Under this precipitation category, for Bhutan about **57.6%** of Bhutan’s agricultural production value or **57.8%** of its agricultural production quantity is likely to be exposed to above-normal precipitation.

Advisories

For the agricultural communities in Bhutan, summer monsoon is considered one of the most important seasons as it coincides with paddy and maize cultivation. Rice being the staple crop for the country, any damage or impact during the season would have a direct impact on the household food security. Similarly, for the eastern part of the country maize is considered a vital component contributing to household food security.

Since the onset of South West monsoon on 3rd June 2022 (NCHM 2022) the whole country has either transplanted or established nursery for paddy cultivation. For the western & west-central



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region, almost all the farmers have completed paddy transplantation. Similarly, the farmers in southern, south-central and eastern region have either established nurseries or initiated paddy transplantation. Additionally, most part of eastern Bhutan has standing maize crop in the fields. To prevent any substantial damage on the crops, Agrometeorology program under the Department of Agriculture in consultation with experts from various ARDCs and central programs issues following advisories:

1. With the forecast of above-normal rainfall it is advised to make judicial use of the irrigation water and regularly drain out excess water from the field so as to maintain optimum water level and prevent submergence of paddy seedings.
2. With the forecast of above-normal rainfall & temperature there is high probability of rice blast outbreak all season, hence it is advised to regularly monitor the crop and seek timely advise from the respective Agriculture extension officer, Agriculture Research and Development Center (ARDC) and National Plant Protection Centre (NPPC) for effective control and management.
3. Similarly, such conditions also favor the outbreak of rice pest such as army worm, therefore regular monitoring and reporting to agriculture extension officer, ARDC and NPPC is advised for timely intervention.
4. With high humidity and warmer temperature, the chances of fall armyworm outbreak is enhanced, therefore, the communities with standing maize crop is advised to regularly monitor and report of any incidence to agriculture extension officer, ARDC and NPPC for timely intervention and control.

Updates will be provided if there are significant changes in the forecast. The Agromet focals based in the Agriculture Research and Development Centres (ARDCs) and Central Programs also generate agro-advisories regularly from the Agromet Decision Support System and the focals shall relay customized advisories to the last mile. For further information please refer to www.doa.gov.bt & www.agromet.gov.bt.

Disclaimer: The information and advisory provided are based on the probabilistic forecast provided by NCHM and other regional organization, hence, the seasonal forecast has to be used and interpreted along with extended, medium and short-range weather forecast issued by NCHM. The advisories are only to be considered as a warning to be prepared and ready for any damage.

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