

Delayed rains to impact sowing of pulses, soyabean

In Madhya Pradesh, rainfall has been more than 70 per cent below average this month.

By Madhvi Sally, ET Bureau| Jun 17, 2019

New Delhi: A delay in the onset of monsoon over central India is impacting plantation of pulses and soybeans, which are grown extensively in the region, farmers and traders said.



Paddy is planted in irrigated land by mid-July, he added.

The monsoon usually covers the entire central region and touches parts of Bihar and southern Rajasthan by mid-June. This year, however, it reached the Kerala coast only on June 8, a week late, and has progressed sluggishly.

The monsoon may reach Madhya Pradesh, India's largest soybean producing state, about 10 days late, which would impact planting of the crop, said Davish Jain, chairman of the Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA).

“The sowing usually picks up by June 20 in central India. This time, we expect a delay of 10 days. The crop is largely grown in the rain-fed region of central India and farmers are waiting for the rains,” Jain said.

Soybean is a sturdy crop, but farmers need moist soil before they can plough their farms and plant the seeds, traders said. “Good rains of 2-3 inches help in proper seed germination. This should be followed by even distribution of rains for good plant growth,” said Jain.

In Madhya Pradesh, rainfall has been more than 70 per cent below average this month, leaving the soil dry and making it difficult for farmers to prepare their fields for planting the kharif, or summersown, crop.

Madhya Pradesh government officials said that they were watching the situation and it was too early to say if the late arrival of the monsoon would impact sowing and production.

“We are waiting for the monsoon, which is delayed by 7-10 days. For the 52 districts in the state, we have a contingency plan. If the rains are consistent once the monsoon sets in, then soybean, maize and pulses crop will not be affected even with the delayed rain,” said Ajit Kesar, principal secretary, agriculture department, Madhya Pradesh.

Paddy is planted in irrigated land by mid-July, he added.

According to the Central Water Commission, there has been 9 per cent less water in Chhattisgarh, while reservoirs had 39 per cent higher than normal storage in Madhya Pradesh as on June 13.

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