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To
The Editor,
Sir,

Date: 25.09.2026

I request that the following message may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
District Level North East Monsoon Rainfall Forecast 2026

Rainfall forecast for the North East Monsoon (NEM, October–December) 2026 has been prepared at 60% probability level by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore using the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) and Sea Surface Temperature (SST) values of Pacific and Indian Oceans prevailed during July -August as input in the Australian Rainman International V.4.3 Software.

Tamil Nadu is expected to receive normal NEM rainfall, with the seasonal total likely around 468 mm, close to the Long Period Average of 464 mm. The State recorded 254 mm during the South West Monsoon (SWM, June–September) 2026 against the normal 292 mm, a 13% deficit as on 22.09.2026. The upcoming NEM is therefore expected to provide partial relief, improving soil moisture, reservoir storage and groundwater recharge.

Prevailing El Niño conditions may influence monsoon circulation, resulting in variable rainfall distribution. Coastal districts may experience intense wet spells associated with cyclonic systems, while interior districts may see more dry spells, especially in December. As NEM contributes nearly half of Tamil Nadu's annual rainfall, its performance is crucial for agriculture and water resource management.

Farmers are advised to utilise weather forecasts and agro advisories from TNAU for timely decisions on sowing, irrigation and fertilizer application. Vigilant monitoring of heavy rainfall and cyclone alerts is essential.

During wet spells, farmers may harvest and store excess rainwater in farm pond for supplemental irrigation during dry spells. Mulching, random tie-ridging and conservation furrows are recommended for soil moisture conservation in rainfed areas. In rice fields, Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) may be adopted wherever feasible to enhance water-use efficiency.

District level seasonal rainfall forecast for North East Monsoon 2026

Districts	Normal RF (mm)	Predicted RF (mm)	Dev. %
Ariyalur	480	469	-2
Chengalpattu	720	780	8
Chennai	751	730	-3
Coimbatore	366	367	0
Cuddalore	647	626	-3
Dharmapuri	314	311	-1
Dindigul	400	400	0
Erode	314	304	-3
Kallakurichi	445	406	-9
Kancheepuram	651	635	-2
Kanyakumari	501	524	5
Karur	298	284	-5
Krishnagiri	285	260	-9
Madurai	422	393	-7
Mayiladuthurai	910	991	9
Nagapattinam	849	864	2
Namakkal	319	295	-8
Perambalur	422	400	-5
Pudukkottai	403	368	-9
Ramanathapuram	481	462	-4
Ranipet	401	426	6
Salem	324	304	-6
Sivaganga	412	389	-6
Tenkasi	462	446	-3
Thanjavur	487	458	-6
The Nilgiris	451	444	-2
Theni	360	353	-2
Thiruvannamalai	475	446	-6
Thiruvarur	653	604	-8
Tiruchirappalli	376	349	-7
Tirunelveli	473	446	-6
Tirupattur	260	238	-8
Tiruppur	328	306	-7
Tiruvallur	561	532	-5
Tuticorin	404	392	-3
Vellore	337	308	-9
Villupuram	508	472	-7
Virudhunagar	399	365	-9
Tamil Nadu	434	438	1

ZONE WISE CONTINGENT CROP PLAN FOR TAMIL NADU

I. North Eastern Zone: Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Villupuram, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore and Cuddalore Districts

Normal rainfall	Deficit rainfall	Excess rainfall
Groundnut / Pearl Millet / Dry Rice / Water Melon / Gourds / Sugarcane	Pulses / Minor Millet (Tenai-ATL1, Varagu-ATL1, Kudhiraival-ATL1)/ Finger Millets – ATL2 / Sesame	Rice (Direct seeded) (Anna (R) 4, ADT 49, PKM 3, ADT 37, ADT 54, ASD 21) / Hybrid Maize / Sunflower / Groundnut / Vegetables

II. North Western Zone: Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Salem and Namakkal Districts

Normal rainfall	Deficit rainfall	Excess rainfall
Tapioca / Groundnut + Pulses / Castor + Groundnut / Sorghum / Maize / Finger Millet / Pearl Millet / Tomato / Bhendi / Onion / Sugarcane	Tapioca / Finger Millet (ATL 2) / Groundnut / Castor / Sorghum (K12, K13)/ Red Gram / Minor Millets (Kudiraivali-ATL1, Samai) / Horse Gram / Castor + Groundnut (CTD1, ICAR VRI 12)	Tapioca / Groundnut + Pulses / Hybrid Maize/ Finger Millet / Vegetables /

III. Western Zone: Erode, Coimbatore and Tiruppur Districts

Normal rainfall	Deficit rainfall	Excess rainfall
Maize /Turmeric/ Sorghum / Groundnut / Castor / Redgram / Sugarcane	Maize / Sorghum / Pulses VGI H (M) 2, CoH 12/ K12, K13	Rice / Hybrid Maize / Sorghum / Groundnut / Turmeric

IV. Cauvery Delta Zone: Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Trichirapalli, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Pudukottai and Karur Districts

Normal rainfall	Deficit rainfall	Excess rainfall
Rice / Sesame / Pearl Millet / Sorghum / Maize / Chrysanthemum / Tube Rose / Marigold/ Sugarcane / Cotton/ Groundnut	Groundnut (CTD1, ICAR VRI 12) + Pigeon Pea / Pulses / Sesame /	Rice / Hybrid Maize / Sunflower / Vegetables

V. Southern Zone: Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts

Normal rainfall	Deficit rainfall	Excess rainfall
Maize/ Groundnut / Pulses / Vegetables / Cotton / Millets / Flower (Jasmine, Chrysanthemum) / Sugarcane / Semidry Rice/ Chillies + Onion/ Cotton + Onion/ Pulses)	Sorghum (K12, K13 /Pearl Millet Maize (VGI H (M) 2, CoH 12 / Sunflower / Vegetables / Pulses / Groundnut (CTD1, ICAR VRI 12) / Fodder sorghum (COFS 29) / Coriander/Gingelly/Minor Millets/ Semidry Rice (PMK (R) 3, ANNA (R) 4, RMD (R) 1),	Rice / Banana / Groundnut/ Vegetables/ Maize/ Cotton + Intercrop Pulses/Onion/Cluster Bean/ Radish)/ Chillies (Onion/ Marigold)

VI. Kanyakumari District (High Rainfall Zone)

Normal rainfall	Deficit rainfall	Excess rainfall
Rice / Groundnut / Pulses/ Tapioca	Tapioca + Pulses / Green Manure (Danicha)	Rice (Direct Seeding) + Tapioca + Pulses / Groundnut

General Advisories

- Follow the TNAU's village level medium range weather forecast available in <https://vlf.aastnau.in/> and <https://vlf.aas.tnau.in>
- Register crop in TNAU's Automated Agromet Advisory mobile app for weather based agro advisories available in the google play store and web portal <https://aastnau.in> and <http://aas.tnau.ac.in>

I. Management strategies suggested to mitigate moisture stress

1. Soil Moisture Conservation

- Inter-cultivation techniques: random tie ridging, crisscross ploughing, conservation furrows (slopes), broad bed furrows (black soils)
- Crop residue mulching and dust mulching during dry spells.
- Use antitranspirants at critical moisture stress stages
- In cotton, nip terminal stem beyond 15th/20th node (at 70–90 DAS) to reduce transpiration
- Maintain optimum population and reduce 10 to 20 per cent population if water stress is severe during critical crop growth stages

2. Seed Hardening & Treatment

Crop	Treatment Solution	Duration
Rainfed or Direct Sowing Rice	Harden the seeds by soaking in equal volume of 1% KCl solution.	16 h, and dry back the seeds to original moisture content
Sorghum, Ragi	2% Potassium dihydrogen phosphate	10 hrs + shade dry
Pearl Millet	2% KCl	6 hrs + shade dry
Groundnut	0.2% Calcium chloride	6 hrs + shade dry
Green Gram	0.1% MnSO ₄ or 0.1% ZnSO ₄	At sowing

3. Sowing method & Irrigation

- In rice: adopt *Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)* and *Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)* wherever feasible
- Ensure lifesaving irrigation at critical crop stages using farm ponds or groundwater

4. Foliar Nutrition & Crop Boosters

Crop	Product	Dosage & Timing
Rice	Rice Bloom & TNAU Rice Reap	8 Kg /acre at peak flowering & 4 Kg / acre at booting stage and 10 days after 1 st spray

Pulses	Pulse Wonder	2 kg/acre at flowering
Groundnut	Groundnut Rich	2 kg/acre/spray at flowering & pod stage
Cotton	Cotton Plus	5 kg/acre at flowering & boll stage
Maize	Maize Maxim	3 kg/acre/spray at tassel & grain stage
Sugarcane	Sugarcane Booster	1, 1.5, 2 kg/acre at 45, 60, 75 DAP

- **Additional sprays:**

- 1% PPFM at important growth stages (or)
- 0.5% KCl at vegetative stage (cereals, pulses, oilseeds) (or)
- 3% Kaolin or 1% KCl for rice under moisture stress(or)
- 1% KCl + CCC @ 500 ppm for Kuruvai rice under drought

5. Crop Shine Application (TNAU)

Crop	Seed Treatment	Foliar Spray	Timing
Rice	5 ml/litre	1 litre/acre	Panicle initiation & anthesis
Ragi, Pulses, Tomato	2.5 ml/litre	0.5 litre/acre	Flowering stage
Cassava	2.5 ml/litre	0.5 litre/acre	30 & 60 days after planting

6. Infrastructure & Community Measures for inadequate rainfall conditions

- Renovate percolation ponds and water storage structures
- Erect community borewells in dry riverbeds
- Organize cattle camps with fodder and water supply
- Promote designer seeds for better emergence

II. Management Practices to Overcome Water Logging

General

1. Providing adequate drainage facilities.
2. Spray growth retardant Cycocel @ 500 ppm for arresting apical dominance and thereby promoting growth of laterals
3. Sowing in ridges and furrows in order to avoid lodging during excess rainfall with heavy wind speed
4. In black soils, sowing of cotton in broad bed furrows to avoid water logging
5. Drain the excess water and the foliar spray of 1% KCl +1% Urea
6. Spray of NAA (Planofix) @ 40 ppm for controlling excessive pre-mature fall of flowering/buds/young developing fruits and pods
7. Foliar spray of 0.3 % Boric acid + 0.5 % ZnSO₄ + 0.5 % FeSO₄ + 1.0 % Urea during critical stages of the stress
8. Harvesting of rice crop at physiological maturity

9. Apply 25% additional Nitrogen after draining the water.

To prevent in-situ germination of seeds during unusual rainfall

In the anticipation of unusual heavy rainfall, foliar spray of Sodium Chloride @ 10% at 14 days before harvest is recommended for inducing temporary dormancy and to arrest the pre-harvest sprouting in rice under field conditions.

(or)

Foliar spray of ABA @ 250 ppm or Sodium Molybdate @ 100 ppm at the time of flowering or Sodium Chloride @ 1% at 10 days before harvest is recommended for inducing temporary dormancy and to arrest the pre-harvest sprouting in rice.

For rejuvenation of crops

Maize	:	Foliar spray of Maize Maxim @ 6 kg/acre using spray volume of 200 litres/ acre at tassel initiation and grain filling stages (3.0 kg for each stage) improves grain filling, grain yield and drought tolerance
Sugarcane	:	Foliar spray of Sugarcane Booster @ 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 kg/acre at 45 th , 60 th and 75 th day after planting enhances cane growth and weight, internodal length, cane yield, sugar content and offers drought tolerance
Cotton	:	Foliar spray of Cotton Plus @ 5 kg/acre at flowering and boll formation stages (2.5 kg each stage) reduces flower and square shedding, improves boll bursting, increases seed cotton yield and imparts drought tolerance in cotton
Groundnut	:	Foliar spray of Groundnut Rich @ 4 kg/acre at peak flowering and pod development stages (2.0 kg each) increases flower retention, pod filling and improves moisture stress tolerance and pod yield in groundnut.
Pulses	:	Foliar spray of Pulse Wonder @ 2 kg/acre at peak flowering stage decreases flower shedding, increases yield and offers moisture stress tolerance.
Rice	:	Foliar spray of Rice Bloom @ 8 kg / acre using spray volume of 200 litres/ acre at heading and grain filling stages (4.0 kg each) Foliar spray of TNAU Rice Reap @ 4kg/acre in 200 litres of water at booting stage and 10 days after first spray improves spikelet fertility, grain filling rate, increase grain yield and tolerance to drought and high temperature stress

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