

Role of monsoon in Indian agriculture

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Introduction

India is world's largest producer of sugar, cotton and pulses. The country is also the second biggest producer of wheat and rice. Monsoon season which delivers about 70% of the country's annual rainfall, determines how successful cultivation would be. The monsoon is also critical for the wider economy.

A normal rainfall, and as a result higher agricultural output, can boost India's economic growth and keep inflation in check. The south – west monsoon irrigates over half of India's crop land. Its arrival marks the beginning of the cultivation of rainfed kharif crops which are heavily dependent on the monsoon. The quality of rainfall determines agricultural production. Early showers will help farmers start planting of major crops such as rice, Soybeans, cotton and pulses.

Monsoon importance for agriculture growth

India gets around 70 percent of its annual rainfall during the monsoon season, which also affects the yield of some kharif or summer crops like rice, pulses and oil seeds such as soybeans. Farmers start planting these crops with the arrival of monsoon rains in June. Union ministry of water resources says, "India receives an average rainfall of about 1170 MM which corresponds to an annual precipitation of about 4000 BCM (Billion cubic meters) including snowfall. Around 50% of India's total food output comes in the form of summer crops. A delayed monsoon can lead to supply issues and even accelerate food inflation.

Effect on demand

In a good monsoon season, farm output goes up, boosting demand for consumer goods as well as income of rural people. All of this leads to a stronger economic outlook that in turn help lift equities especially of companies selling goods in rural areas. However, a poor monsoon season weakens the demand for CG products, tractors, two – wheelers and rural housing also, it forces the government to spend on the import of food as well as take

measures like farm ban waivers. The monsoon rains in India also replenish reservoirs and ground water that helps in improving irrigation and also boosts hydropower production.

Monsoon

A monsoon is traditionally a seasonal reversing wind accompanied by corresponding changes in precipitation, but now used to describe seasonal changes in atmospheric monsoon or rainy season, lasting from June to September. The season is dominated by the humid southwest summer monsoon which slowly sweeps across the country beginning in late may or early June. Monsoon rains begin to recede from north India at to beginning of October. South India typically receives more rainfall.

Changes of the monsoon

Monsoon typically occurs in tropical areas one area that monsoons impact greatly is India. In India monsoons create an entire season in which the wind's reverse completely. The rainfall is a result of the convergence of wind flow from the Bay of Bengal and reverse winds from the South China Sea. The onset of the monsoon cover the Bay of Bengal in may arrive at the Indian Peninsular by June, and then the winds move towards the South China Sea.

Ideal and normal monsoon rains

Normally, the southwest monsoon can be expected to “burst” onto the western coast of India (near Thiruvananthapuram) at the beginning of June and to cover the entire country by mid – July. Its withdrawal from India Typically starts at the beginning of September and finishes by the beginning of October. The northeast monsoon usually “Bursts” around 20 October and lasts for about 50 days before withdrawing. However, a rainy monsoon is not necessarily a normal monsoon that is one that performs close to statistical averages calculated over a long period. A normal monsoon is generally accepted to be one involving also to the average quantity of precipitation over all the geographical locations under influence and over the entire expected time period. Additionally, the arrival date and the departure date of both the southeast and northeast monsoon should be close to the mean dates. The exact criteria for a normal monsoon are defined by Indian.

Indian Agriculture's dependence on monsoon

Farming is the only source of income to many farmers in India. In fact taking in consideration the amount of GDP contribution that the Indian agriculture has, it is a primary factor to affect the economy as a whole. Around 70 percent of the Indian population depends on farming and 58 percent of the total employment in the country is through agriculture which contributes to around 18 percent of the GDP. These numbers bring both, necessary responsibility and limitless to a large part of our population.

One cannot deny the dark clouds of monsoon bring hope and happiness to farmers, the soil of his farm comes alive when the first drops of monsoon touches his farmland. Seeds winding in the ground get moistened by the rainfall. It's just magical together. As a tropical country with limited irrigation facility, the fate of the kharif crops especially depends on the southwest monsoon. The amount of rainfall in a specific area determines the types of crop that can adapt and grow to the natural factors affecting the region. Monsoon friendly crops with a high requirement of water like sugarcane, jute and paddy can easily be cultivated during summers in areas with a high proximity for monsoons. Whereas, crops like wheat and barley require moderate temperature, humidity and water, therefore can only be grown in winters.

However, there are increasing incidences of floods during this season. Droughts due to erratic weather, it's a time to explore ways of bringing a sustainable model of farming for our farmers and minimize depressed every on monsoon.



More than anything else, the failure of monsoon has a huge impact on the life of Indian farmer. Most of the Indian farmers rely on good crop produce during monsoon to earn their living and in order to overcome debts incurred. Lastly, agriculture isn't the only sector which is affected by the performance of monsoon. Infact, as many as a dozen sectors depends on monsoon, either directly or indirectly. Thus, it is safe to say that Indian agriculture depends on monsoon but same time monsoon are bit rude to the farmers.

