



BASAI News Updates

Sept. 25, 2022

Downpour leaves fields waterlogged, standing crops damaged

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, SEPTEMBER 24
Heavy rainfall for the past five days is giving sleepless nights



Ensure water drained out: Khattar to DCs



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India

Paddy fields flattened in Sonapat, Panipat

PANIPAT, SEPTEMBER 24

Continual rain in the region increased the worry of farmers in Panipat and Sonapat. Farmers are worried a lot as the paddy crop in these two districts is in the flowering stage. Farmers said if the rain continued for long, their standing crop would be damaged. In Gohana, Mundlana and Kathura blocks, fields were waterlogged and standing paddy crop had flattened. "If rain continues for a few more days, it will damage the paddy in the region. Most of the paddy in the region is sown late and it is in the flow-



Paddy flattened in a field in Sonapat district. PHOTO: RAMESH KUMAR

ering stage," said Bhagat Singh, a farmer of Bhainswan Khurd village in the Kathura block of Sonapat district. Around 1ft-2ft water is there in the fields and the paddy crop has been flattened, he added. Devender Kuhar, subject

matter specialist (SMS) in the Agriculture Department said paddy crop was sown in 2.25 lakh acres in Sonapat and 90 per cent farmers had sown late varieties of paddy. "Three blocks in the district— Kathura, Mundlana

and Gohana — face waterlogging problem, so we have advised the farmers to stop harvesting cotton and millet in the region till the rain does not stop, he said.

Wazir Singh, Deputy Director, Agriculture Department in Panipat said 95 per cent farmers had sown varieties of basmati paddy in around 1.80 lakh acres in the district while 5-7 per cent was of hybrid crop. Due to continuous rain in the last three days in the region, there was a loss to hybrid crop, he said. —TNS

Ensure water drained out: Khattar to DCs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

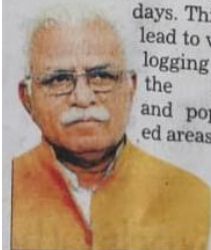
In view of the incessant rains in the state, CM Manohar Lal Khattar today directed the Deputy Commissioners of all districts to ensure drainage of water from the waterlogged areas at the earliest.

Officers should stay vigilant and get water drained out from the waterlogged areas. Special arrangements should be made in this regard, added the CM.

He said the waterlogging problem should be resolved with immediate effect so that the common people and the farmers do not face any inconvenience. For this, necessary machinery such as pumps, motors pipes, etc should be arranged in the districts.

It has been raining continuously for the past two days in the state and the Indian Meteorological Department has expressed the possibility of rain to continue for the

next one or two days. This can lead to waterlogging in the fields and populated areas.



Manohar Lal Khattar, CM



A waterlogged paddy field at a village in Palwal district. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Jowar, bajra damaged in Palwal villages

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PALWAL, SEPTEMBER 24

Torrential rains have caused damage to crops leaving farmers in several villages worried. A demand for a special girdhari (loss survey) has been raised. "The kharif crops of cotton, bajra, jowar and paddy have been damaged due to waterlogging caused by heavy rain," said sources in the Agriculture Department. It is claimed that while the exact loss or damage can be assessed only after a field survey, the water has accumulated upto 3ft-4ft on more than hundreds of hectares of land. Rajkumar Ohlyan, a farmer from Gughera village, said the crops such as bajra and paddy, which were ready to be harvested had suffered major loss as the crops were flattened. The delay in harvesting could ultimately create hurdles in sowing wheat in many areas. He said farmers were worried about the damage so the government should order a survey and release the relief besides ensuring de-watering measures in the affected villages. "Cotton crop in several acres has been ruined due to rain," says Ajit, a farmer of Banchari village. He said the matter had been brought to the notice of the officials concerned already.

According to official sources the rain recorded in the past two days was around 120 mm in Palwal section, 96 mm in Hodal, 52 mm in Hathin and 34 mm in Hasampur subdivision till Saturday morning. The rains have affected the standing crops in around 61,000

CANAL BREACHES IN HISAR

The heavy rain has led to the overflowing of the canal due a breach in it near Rohnat village in Bhiwani district. This has inundated the standing crops in several acres. The villagers said a breach had occurred in the Sunder branch, which inundated nearly 300 acres. A senior agriculture official said the rain would damage the crops that were in the harvesting stage. TNS



A canal breaches due to excessive rain and inundates fields in Rohnat village of Bhiwani district.

COTTON BELT WORST HIT AS PINK BALLWORM HAD CAUSED HAVOC EARLIER

■ Hisar: The widespread rain lashing the region since Friday has caused extensive damage to kharif crops of cotton, paddy, bajra, guar and moong. ■ Cotton farmers are the worst hit as the previous spells of rain and pink bollworm have already caused enough damage to the crop. ■ The region comprising Hisar, Bhiwani, Fatehabad and Sirsa is known as the cotton belt. Besides, the region also grows paddy, bajra and guar crops. ■ The kharif crops are at the harvesting stage and the rain has already flattened. The fields are inundated in Hisar.

Produce drenched in rain at Ambala grain markets

AMBALA, SEPTEMBER 24

Untimely rainfall has increased the worry of paddy growers in the district. "The rain has not only drenched the matured crop stock lying in the grain markets but it has also affected the harvesting season too. The farmers said the incessant rain would not only affect the yield but also affect the quality of the crop. Sukhvinder Singh, a farmer from Kola village, said "We are waiting for procurement for more than one week in Ambala City grain market. The

crop has also got drenched in the rain and it has increased the moisture content of the stock." Mahaveer Singh, district president of the BKU (Charuni) said, "Rain at this stage will affect the yield as well as the quality of the crop. The government should order special girdhari to assess the loss and compensate the farmers."

The Deputy Director, Agriculture, Ambala, Dr Girish Nagpal, said farmers had been advised to drain out water from the paddy fields. The exact situation will be clear after 48 hours. —TNS

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Ensure water drained out: Khatwal, DDA



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, SEPTEMBER 24
Heavy rainfall for the past five days is giving sleepless nights to farmers in Karnal and Kaithal districts as it has caused 'extensive' damage to their standing paddy crop. The farmers are keeping their fingers crossed as the rain has caused waterlogging in the fields where the crop is ready for harvest.



Standing crop damaged in a field in Karnal on Saturday. SAYEED AHMED

As per the data of the Agriculture Department, waterlogging has been reported in around 90,000 acres in Karnal district and nearly 4,000 acres in Kaithal district. So far, the authorities are expecting nearly 10-15 per cent loss in Karnal district and 5 per cent in Kaithal district. The farmers said mainly short-duration varieties such as Puşa-1509 and PR-126 were damaged. They said higher moisture content might lead to poor market prices in future. "I have cultivated basmati and PR varieties on 25 acres and harvested only five acres so far. The heavy rainfall has not only flattened my crop, but also led to waterlogging in the fields. This will damage the crop," said Inderjeet Singh, a farmer of Nilokheri block.

Those who have harvested their crop and reached the grain markets are not able to sell their produce due to the ongoing strike by the arhtiyas. Sunil, a farmer of Narukheri village, said he had been waiting here in the grain market for the five days to sell his produce, but due to the arhtiyas'

strike, nobody came forward to purchase it. Moreover, the rain has damaged his produce as there were insufficient arrangements in the grain market. Aditya Dabas, Deputy Director Agriculture (DDA), Karnal, said the paddy crop had been cultivated on 4.15 lakh acres, of which 97,500 acres was basmati, 10,000 acres duplicate basmati (muchhal) and 3,07,500 acres non-basmati varieties.

"The grain formation has been completed. The stagnation of water can discolour the grains. Insects also attack in such conditions," said Dabas. Karam Chand, DDA, Kaithal, said cultivation of paddy was done on 4 lakh acres in Kaithal district, of which 1.25 lakh acres had been covered under basmati, while 2.75 lakh acres under non-basmati varieties. under non-basmati varieties.

WATERLOGGING

90,000 ACRES

KARNAL

4,000 ACRES

KAITHAL

BKU DEMANDS RELIEF FOR FARMERS

The Bhartiya Kisan Union (Sir Chhotu Ram) state core committee member, Jagdeep Singh Aulakh, demanded that the government should conduct a special girdawari (survey) and compensate farmers for the crop loss they have suffered due to heavy rain across the state in the past five days.



Discoloured grains of the paddy.

HC stays setting up of infra for cement factory

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

Less than a month after the change of land use (CLU) granted to a cement factory allegedly against Sangrur's sanctioned master plan came under the judicial scanner, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed the laying down of "any infrastructure" for the unit. The order will remain in force at least till October 12, the next date of hearing in the case.

The direction came after the Division Bench of Justice Lisa Gill and Justice Harsh Bunker was told that all efforts were now being made for laying down the necessary infrastructure to make the factory operational at a rapid pace. This, senior advocate RS Bains with counsel Aarushi Garg submitted, was pursuant to permission being granted for setting up the cement factory, a red category industry in a purely agricultural zone.

The matter was brought to the notice of the High Court by a nonagenarian and six other residents. Among other things, they were seeking directions for quashing the permission for the CLU. In their petition, Harbinder

Singh Sekhon (90), and other petitioners contended that the CLU, dated December 13, 2021, granted by the Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion to the respondent-cement factory, was patently illegal and "incorrect in nature" as it was against the sanctioned master plan. Besides, it was also against the guidelines laid down by the PPCB.

The Bench was also told that the CLU for setting up the red category factory on agriculture land notified in the master plan was also "highly dangerous" to the environment as well as the people living in the vicinity. It was granted even though an amendment was not carried out in any manner in the master plan to include red category industries in the notified agriculture land.

"The water requirement of such a cement factory was calculated to be 350 kiloliter per day and the source was stated to be groundwater, which is already a major concern in Punjab. This will have a detrimental impact on the whole lot of surrounding villages, which will have no groundwater left in the times to come," it was submitted, adding that Sangrur was a "major food bowl of the country".

Regular paddy procurement from October 1

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 24

Haryana will start regular procurement of paddy from October 1 that will continue till November 15. All necessary arrangements for the same have been completed.

The government has set a target of procuring around 55 lakh tonne paddy this season.

The state government has decided that Rs 100 per quintal will be charged, instead of 4 per cent market fee on paddy, which is not purchased at MSP. Out of Rs 100, Rs 50 will go to the Mandi Board and the remaining to the Haryana Rural Development Fund as cess.

The government has already announced that the procurement of kharif crops will also start from the same date. Procurement of Paddy and Kharif crops will be done at over 400 mandis across the state.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department will procure 50 per cent of paddy, 30 per cent will be procured by HAFED, 15 per cent by the Haryana State Warehousing Corporation and 5 per cent by the Food Corporation of India.

