EditorsBreaking

News • Latest Updates

National

Driest monsoon in 17 years, 15% less rainfall puts crops in trouble

Published: 18 Sep 2026



India is heading towards its driest monsoon in 17 years. By September 18, rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September was 15% below normal across the country. The Meteorological Department had predicted 8% less rainfall than normal. If the lack of rain continues, this will be the weakest monsoon since 2009, when rainfall was 18% below normal.

Even in the final phase of the monsoon, the rainfall deficit persists. According to the IMD, some areas received up to 50% less rainfall than normal in September. This raises concerns about lower crop yields and increased pressure on food prices. In India, 70% of rainfall happens during the monsoon. According to the weather department, low rainfall is affecting crops like rice, pulses, cotton, and maize. The Agriculture Ministry said that by September 18, Kharif crop sowing was recorded on 1.5 million hectares less land than last year. Rice is the most affected, with its area down 3.73% to 42.681 million hectares.

According to one estimate, rice production could drop by 10 million tons to 144 million tons, which is 6.5% less than last year’s record output. In the south, the area has decreased by 30-40%, leading to premiums.

Tags: #monsoon #crops in trouble