

Rain damaged crops on 23L ha in state during this monsoon

Highest Loss Recorded Due To Sharp Spells In July Alone

Neha.Madaan@timesgroup.com

Pune: Kharif and fruit/vegetable crops over 23.19 lakh hectares were damaged due to intense and sharp rainfall spells in the June-September monsoon period across Maharashtra this year, data from the state agriculture department revealed on Saturday.

At over 18.21 lakh hectares, the maximum destruction occurred during the month of July, which recorded several heavy rain events, the data showed.

Convective showers are unlike monsoon rain, though they can occur during the monsoon season. Convective rain is usually accompanied with thunder/lightning, and the resulting spells are short and intense, the reason why they can do maximum damage. "Crops, such as maize, cotton, mung, soybean, bajra, sugar cane, paddy, veggies and fruits, have suffered damage due to such rain, but the maximum impact has been on soybean and cotton crop, which is likely to bring down their yield this season," a state agriculture department official told TOI.

"Total sown area for kharif is 1.41 crore hectares in Maharashtra. Districts of Vidarbha, such as Amravati, Nagpur, Wardha and Nanded, have been worst affected. Reason for the extensive damage is intense and high quantum rainfall in a very short span of time. As per preliminary estimates, cotton and soybean crops have been destroyed in almost 18-19 lakh hectares, thus, suffering the maximum damage. This may ultimately affect the yield of these crops by about 10-15%," another official from the state agriculture department said.

Sangeeta Shroff, agriculture expert from the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, and in charge of the Agro-Economic Research

BLOW TO KHARIF YIELD

State agriculture department data showed that in July this year, nearly 17.59 lakh hectares under field crops suffered damage as against over 25,000 hectares under orchard crops



► During the same month, over 36,000 hectares under fruit crops also suffered damage. Some of the affected districts in July included Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Satara, Kolhapur, Latur, Nanded, Buldhana, Yavatmal, Wardha and Gondia

► In August, nearly 810 hectares suffered erosion due to intense rain events. In the month, kharif crops over 3.73 lakh hectares in the state were affected, with over 300 hectares of soybean, tur, millet and cotton crops being damaged in Khed, Purandar, Ambegaon and Shirur in Pune district

► In September, crops on nearly 1.24 lakh hectares in various districts suffered due to heavy rain

FLOODING A KILLER

► The data showed that during the monsoon of 2022, nearly 160 people in Maharashtra died due to flooding events, while 27 died in landslides, 154 due to lightning strikes, while three lives were lost in structure collapse

► IMD data showed that in 2022, India witnessed 1,874 very heavy rainfall events and nearly 296 extremely heavy rainfall events. **This number was higher than the events that occurred in 2021 across the country. In 2021, India witnessed 1,636 very heavy rainfall events and nearly 273 extremely heavy rainfall events**



Over 340 died of rain-related disasters in Maharashtra

Neha.Madaan@timesgroup.com

Pune: At least 344 people have lost their lives this monsoon season in Maharashtra due to events like flooding, landslides, lightning strikes and structure collapse, data from the state disaster management department revealed on Saturday. This is the second highest death toll during the monsoon season since 2018.

At 764, the highest number of deaths were recorded during the monsoon of 2021, which saw two destructive cyclones (Yaas and Tauktae) affecting parts of Maharashtra.

A state disaster management department official told TOI that structure collapse was more frequent during in-

Pawar for early help for farmers hit by calamities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nashik: Union minister of health and family welfare Bharati Pawar directed the local authorities to complete the panchanamas of all the damage caused to the crops hit by the heavy rain, and send them to the state government at the earliest.

She visited parts of Niphad and Chandwad taluka, which were hit by heavy rain and hail causing huge losses.

She also visited Kundewadi village in Niphad taluka and Shivaji Nagar and Asarkhede villages in Chandwad taluka that are part of Dindori parliamentary constituency. She spoke to the farmers and villagers assuring them of help at the earliest.

The farmers have been badly affected by the heavy rain and hail that washed away all the kharif crops.

The minister said that she would pursue the matter with the state government to provide all assistance possible to the villagers and the farmers.

Pawar also laid the foundation of a piped water supply scheme in the Nandurdi village of Niphad taluka at the cost of Rs 4.3 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The water supply scheme will cover 93 families, who will get water from a permanent source.

Centre of the institute, told TOI, "The intense rainfall spells are not only causing damage to crops in the monsoon, but also in the month of November. With monsoon rainfall being optimum in Maharashtra over the last 3-4 years, it has been noticed that

many farmer suicides in Marathwada in the recent years are being attributed to intense rainfall events that can damage many hectares of harvestable crops. Ironically, this happened more often in drought years in the past."

tense and heavy rain spells, especially in the rural areas. "During such spells, structures with a weak foundation tend to collapse. Such instances are more frequent in villages as many structures there are made of mud. In locations where authorities feel that such instances can occur in the monsoon season, the residents are given prior intimation to evacuate the buildings. But many times, such warnings are not heeded," the official said.

A study by Dr Roxy Mathew Koll and his team at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) had also reported that widespread extreme rain events across central India have tripled since 1950. "These severe weather events result in largescale floods and catastrophic loss of life and property across central and northern India, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, and parts of Western Ghats, including Goa, north Karnataka and central Kerala," the study had said.

DEADLY EFFECT