

From

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EDITORIAL

Although the monsoon in India is tracking at 11% above normal, the distribution is uneven across the country and could pose a threat to this year's foodgrain production and may worsen the inflation outlook. As a matter of fact, the sowing of *kharif* crops begins with the onset of the southwest monsoon in June. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has projected a normal southwest monsoon this year. From the data it is evident that rains have been geographically uneven, with concentration seen in central and southern India, trailing in the northwest and a steep 15% below-normal in the east and the northeast. Provided monsoon rains progress in next two months and geographically more even, *Kharif* sowing could still pickup in the next month. Thus, it is still too early to predict about the menaces. However, if this uneven distribution of rainfall continues, then a potential cut in foodgrain production, especially rice, would be a downside risk to agriculture. Let us all hope for the best.

Sincerely



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