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IMD issues advisory for farmers for kharif sowing

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New Delhi, May 30: After normal or above-normal pre-monsoon showers during last two weeks across most of the regions, India Meteorological Department (IMD), in collaboration with the agriculture ministry, has come out with comprehensive state-specific advisories for the farmers prior to the commencement of kharif sowing.

According to IMD's national agromet advisory service, the prevailing weather conditions are suitable to continue agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing of kharif crops in north-eastern states, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal. "As there was rainfall and likely to continue over Kerala, undertake nursery for rice and vegetables and planting of orchard crops," the advisory noted.

For Karnataka, the advisory has urged farmers to continue with land preparation for nursery sowing of rice, for sowing of kharif crops like jowar, red gram, black gram, pearl millet, maize, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower and sesame. In drought-hit Marathwada region, which got spell of rains recently, IMD has urged land preparation for sowing of cotton, pigeon pea, green gram, black gram, groundnut and maize.

The advisory has asked



Vidarbha farmers to prepare land for nursery sowing of kharif rice and continuation of preparatory tillage for sowing of kharif jowar, soyabean, cotton, red gram, green gram and black gram. For Andhra Pradesh region, which had received rains in the last couple of days, farmers have been asked to continue with land preparation for sowing of rice, pulses like red and green gram and cotton.

Meanwhile, IMD in its latest weather bulletin said, "Thunderstorm accompanied with squall is likely over Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha". The Met department has also said that heavy rain is very likely at isolated places over coastal and south interior Karnataka.

According to private weather forecaster Skymet, during the last few days, monsoon like rains have been lashing Kerala. While rains have gone even up to 50 mm in a few pockets of

the Alappuzha district, light rains have also been recorded over some parts of Kerala.

The agency also noted that rains have been 'good' both in terms of spread as well as intensity. Not only have good showers been affecting Kerala, in fact Lakshadweep and coastal Karnataka have also been receiving rains, it noted.

Last month, Skymet had predicted that southwest monsoon is likely to arrive over Kerala between May 28 and May 30. The agency said on Monday that the rainfall criteria for monsoon arrival is met when 2.5 mm of rain is recorded for two consecutive days over 60% of 14 stations in states, including Lakshadweep Islands, Coastal Karnataka and Kerala.

The IMD recently had said that the south-west monsoon is likely to enter Kerala coast by June 7 which is a 'slight delay' against usual arrival date of June 1.

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