



WEBINAR

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF CHANGING MONSOON PATTERNS IN INDIA



Monsoon is a key influencer in the Indian economy. 18% of the GDP is derived from agriculture and almost 50% of the Indian workforce is employed in the sector. With not only domestic but global food export dependencies, Indian monsoon is a very crucial factor, also to bring relief from intense heat waves of the summer months.

This year, the monsoon made a timely onset but stalled for more than a week before picking up momentum again. While it seems Monsoon is picking up pace now, the impact of delay is cause for concern across the economy. Over 40% of the sown area of India depends on rain-fed irrigation. While India is likely to record normal rainfall for the fourth year straight, it is not the average rainfall that can make a difference but the spatial distribution of rainfall that is required. With changing climate, sowing windows have been altered and, in some cases, farmers are replacing traditional yields with cash crops.

With extreme heatwaves and delayed progress of Monsoon, humidity will rise resulting in wet bulb temperatures, which can be more dangerous than dry heatwaves that we witnessed from March-May. While heat is already affecting India's labour hours, high wet bulb temperatures can impact morbidity and mortality as well.

Experts have been warning that in warmer and more humid environment, there is an increase in the number of crop diseases and different types of pests. In a bid to save the crop, farmers and cultivators have been using excess amounts of pesticides and chemicals. This not only impacts the overall crop yield but also the quality. Recently, Iran and Taiwan reportedly rejected tea consignments from India due to the presence of pesticides and chemicals beyond permissible limits.

Fri
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24
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01:00 pm

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Speakers

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