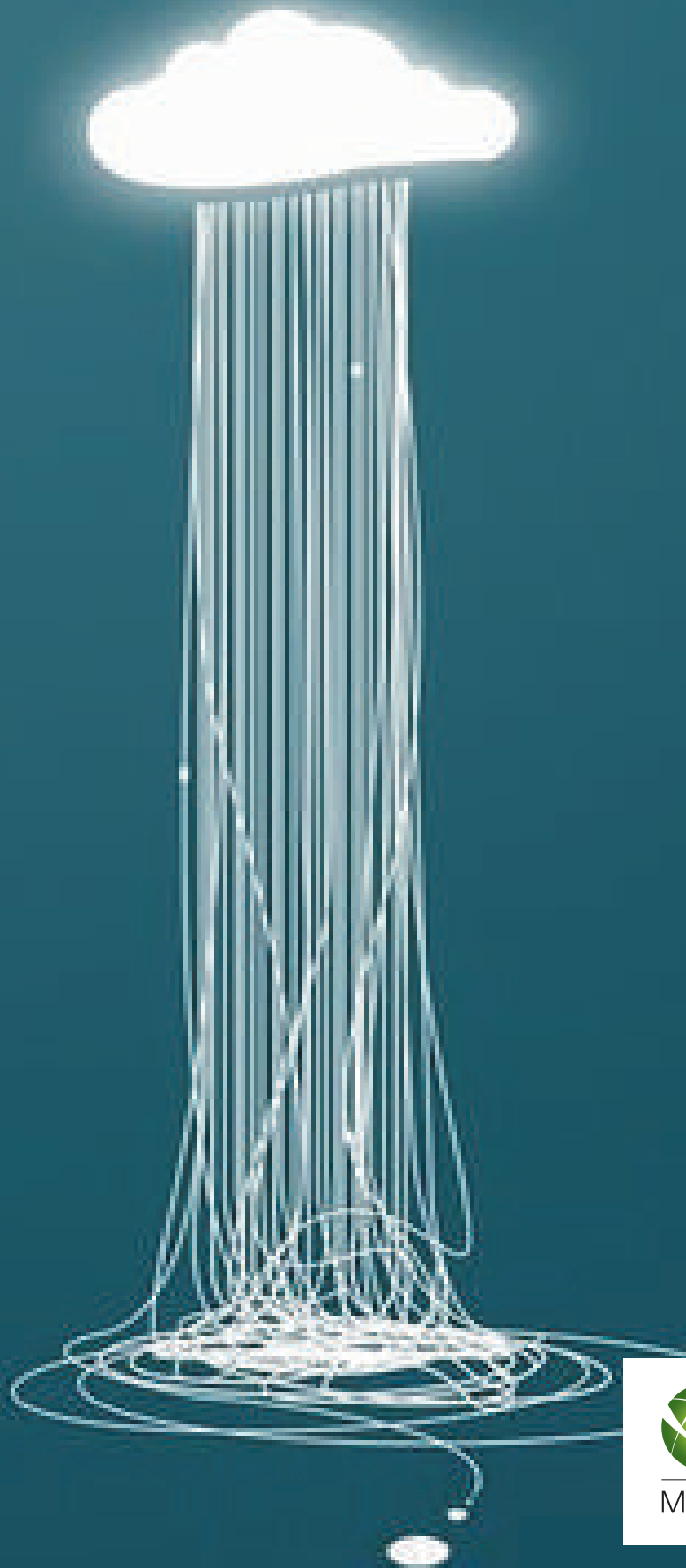


23 April 2015

Special Report on Southwest Monsoon 2015



Presented by:
Subhranil Dey



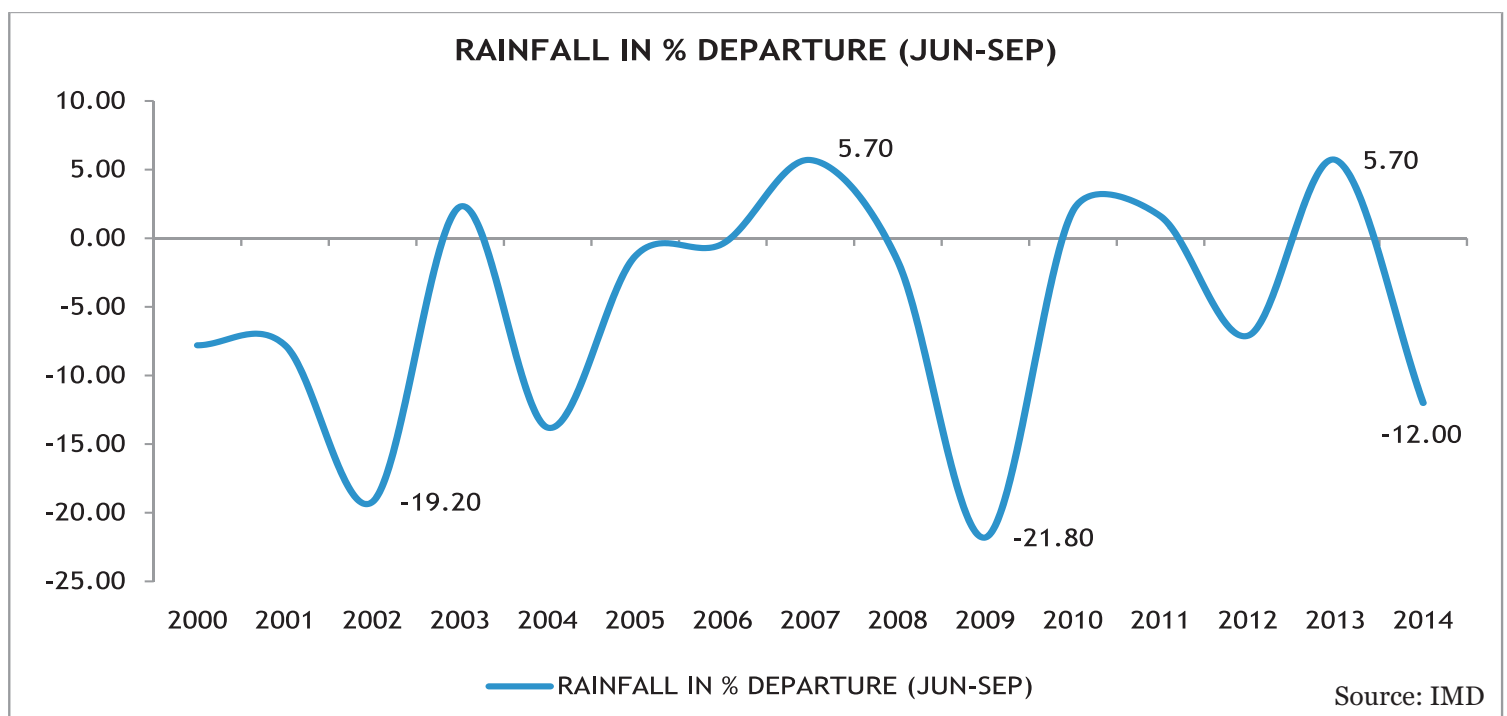
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Monsoon “Rain Rain go away & come again”

The verdict is Out !!! The rain god has finally not accepted the prayers of the umbrella friends & farmers for a normal monsoon this year. In months to come, there are high chances that the agricultural output of India may get hurt as the monsoon is seen below normal for a second year. The El Nino weather conditions may persist during the monsoon and the probability of rains being above normal was negligible. India – the Asia's third-largest economy is a country where 833 million people living in villages & depend on farming. Agriculture accounts for about 15% of India's gross domestic product and the monsoon is the main source of irrigation for the nation's farmers, where only 45% of the farmland is irrigated. In the current scenario, the government is counting on normal rainfall to accelerate economic growth in a country. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation estimates has estimated growth rate for agriculture and allied sectors during 2014-15 at 2-11-12 basic prices is 1.1%.

The Double Whammy - Untimely rains & crop damage

Success or failure of crops in any year is always crucial for the development of Indian economy, which in turn controls the economy of the country. The crop situation of the country is already reeling under pressure of huge losses to the standing Rabi crops due to hailstorm. The Ministry of Agriculture cited that as per inputs received from States and based on preliminary assessment, 93.81 lakh hectare area under crops was affected due to hailstorm, unseasonal rains as on 16th April, 2015. The rainfall since March 1 was 102% more than a 50-year average, government data show. The all India weighted average rainfall between March 1 and April 15 was 96.6mm, more than double the normal of 47.8mm.



El Nino Alert & forecast of monsoon

A normal monsoon means the country receives rainfall between 96% and 104% of a 50-year average of 89 cm during the rainy season, according to India's weather office classification. As per the latest report by the Indian Meteorological Department, India is expected to receive below normal monsoon this year as the rains are expected to be 93% of the long-term average. The forecast is subject to an error margin of plus or minus 5%. This will be the second straight year of below average rains if the forecast proves right, as the monsoon ended up with a double digit deficit of 12% last year. The onset of the South-West monsoon will be announced on May 15, and then there will be a clear idea of distribution for the June forecast.

This year the potential are high that El Nino will occur which will possibly raise concerns for output prospects for major summer crops such as rice, cane, soybean and cotton in the country. India's monsoon was hit by an El Nino in 2009 when the four-month rainy season that starts in June turned out to be the driest in nearly four decades. El Nino, meaning 'little boy' in Spanish, is caused by unusual warming in the Pacific Ocean, which can cause atmospheric changes and bring on a dry spell in the region. An update from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, which leads global forecasters in tracking El Ninos, said sea-surface temperatures "are now just shy of El Nino levels". There's at least a 70% chance that "El Nino thresholds" could be "reached or exceeded" as early as June.

Let's hope for the best monsoon this year.

For further any queries, please contact

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