



India-Tamil Nadu: Crops in 151,000 acres submerged

The agriculture department has estimated that standing agricultural crop in 145,000 acres and horticultural crop in 6,000 acres have been submerged in water after heavy rain lashed several districts of Tamil Nadu, agriculture minister MRK Panneerselvam said on Thursday 11 Nov '21.

Speaking to reporters in Chennai, the minister said long-term samba crop had been raised in 4.4 Million acres in the state. The crop damage would be assessed after rainwater receded, he said.

"Assessment will be made in villages and agricultural lands to find out crop loss of 33% and above to extend compensation by the government. At least 6,000 acres of horticultural crops are also submerged, and much more will be assessed after water recedes," the minister said.

While November 15 is the last date for payment of premium for paddy crop under Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme, the minister said the state government requested the Union government to extend the date till the month-end and simultaneously asked the officials to facilitate the payment on Saturday too.

"About 1.043 Million acres of agricultural land have been insured until November 9, and 808,000 farmers insured so far," the agriculture minister said.



Source - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>



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Heavy Rainfall and Floods Hit Chennai, India

The period October to December is referred to as Northeast Monsoon season (The NE Monsoon) over peninsular India. The NE Monsoon is the major period of rainfall activity over south peninsula, particularly in the eastern half comprising the meteorological subdivisions of Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and Tamil Nadu-Pondicherry. For Tamil Nadu, this is the main rainy season accounting for about 48% of the annual rainfall. Coastal districts of the State get nearly 60% of the annual rainfall and the interior districts get about 40-50% of their annual rainfall.

The IMD had predicted the onset of the northeast monsoon by October 26, delayed by nearly a week due to the delayed withdrawal of the southwest monsoon.

In addition to the north-east monsoon, creation of a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal and depression in the Arabian sea have contributed to this situation.

The weather system had crossed the coast of Tamil Nadu between 5.30 pm and 6.30 pm on November 11, bringing with it heavy rains and high winds. Chennai, the state capital, bore the brunt of the depression, with the rains flooding major roads and neighbourhoods, disrupting power supply to more than 65,000 houses, delaying rail operations, and halting flight arrivals for about six hours on Thursday November 11.



Vehicles stranded on a waterlogged street in Chennai on Sunday Nov 7

Source: PTI



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Reasons of Flooding

1. Loss of water bodies

The city of Chennai was once known for its numerous water bodies from the north to the south. The three urban rivers, Kosasthalaiyar in the north, Cooum in the centre and Adyar in the south play a crucial role in carrying rainwater. The Buckingham canal across the city runs parallel to the coast and connects the rivers. The city also had major and minor canals along with hundreds of water bodies.

However, due to fast and random growth witnessed in the city, the water bodies are encroached and polluted.

Velacheri is one among the several reservoirs whose area has shrunk owing to urbanisation as shown in images below.



The actual area of Velachery tank
Courtesy: @NityJayaraman



The present available catchment area
Courtesy: @NityJayaraman

2. Faulty Design of Stormwater Drains

3. Increasing population and decreasing urban space



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Damage Caused by Floods

The Tamil Nadu state agriculture department has estimated that standing agricultural crops in 145,000 acres and horticultural crops in 6,000 acres have been submerged in water after heavy rain lashed several districts.

A state government team would assess the situation in the delta districts and submit a report to the government on crop damage and relief will be extended based on that.



Flooded Marina Beach, Chennai on 7th November 2021

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