

# AGRICULTURE

Foodgrains production in 1997-98 is unlikely to reach preceding year's record output of 199 million tonnes. Abnormally cool and wet weather in November/December 1997 in particular, disrupted the normal schedule of wheat sowing. Production of wheat, coarse grains, cotton and groundnut is likely to be lower than last year. Coffee and tea have fared better. Overall, the growth of agricultural production is likely to be somewhat subdued in 1997-98 when viewed against the high growth of 9.3 per cent in 1996-97.

## Monsoon 1997

2. Despite the adverse EL NINO phenomenon, 1997 Monsoon turned out to be reasonably good, with country wide seasonal rainfall at 102 per cent of the long term average. Monsoon was delayed by a week, but covered the entire country by July 19, four days later than the normal date of July 15. The cumulative rainfall was excess or normal in 32 meteorological subdivisions out of 35, covering 81 per cent of the districts of the country, and 92 per cent of the total area. Except for some parts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, spatial distribution of rainfall was

Year	Number of Meteorological Sub-divisions			Normal/ Excess rainfall ( % of districts)	Actual rainfall as per cent to normal rainfall
	Excess/ Normal	Deficient/ Scanty	Total		
1991	27	8	35	68	91
1992	32	3	35	65	93
1993	31	4	35	78	100
1994	25	10	35	77	110
1995	33	2	35	79	100
1996	32	3	35	82	103
1997	32	3	35	81	102

satisfactory. There was no prolonged break in the monsoon. Performance of the monsoon in the recent years is shown in Table 8.1.

3. The cumulative rainfall during the post monsoon season 1997 was excess or normal in 27 meteorological subdivisions. Unusually prolonged wet and cold spell in November 1997 in the major wheat growing areas - Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh delayed both sowing and germination necessitating resowing in some areas. Tamil Nadu benefited most from good rainfall during the northeast monsoon. Performance of post- monsoon rainfall in the recent years is shown in Table 8.2.

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Excess/Normal	11	16	20	19	16	26	27
Deficient/Scanty	24	19	15	16	19	9	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>

## Reservoir Situation

4. Water storage of 63 important reservoirs rose to 99.9 thousand million cubic meters (80 per cent of the capacity) at the end of September, 1997 as against 97.7 thousand million cubic meters (78 per cent of the capacity) during the corresponding period of 1996.