



**Natural Resources Management Centre**  
**Department of Agriculture**  
**No 5, Sarasavi Mawatha, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka**



Tel / Fax - 94-81-2388355

Post - P O Box 52,

My No - NRMC/1/17

October 6, 2020

Director General of Agriculture

**Agro-met Advisory: October to November (SON) during  
2020/21 Maha season**

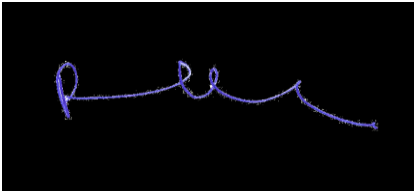
The Department of Meteorology has forecasted that rainfall during the months of October and November of 2020/21 Maha season is likely to be **Below normal** over most parts of the island with a slight possibility for near normal rainfall in Jaffna and Killinochchi districts.

Hence, recommendations made available in the Agro-met Advisory issued on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (copied below with a minor adjustment) will remain valid for strict adherence in order to minimize the impacts of potential drought-like weather conditions during the first two months of 2020/21 Maha season

- Dry seeding of paddy on light textured soils to be done wherever possible (i.e, Eastern province,- DL2a and DL2b; Northern province – DL3 and part of the Kurunegala district –IL3) as in the case of past;
- Use of incipient rains for land preparation, especially where lands are considerably soaked with good rains received during the month of September;
- Complete the land preparation phase within 2-3 weeks of duration (maximum);
- Growing OFCs where the drainage conditions are conducive for non-rice crops with appropriate drainage provisions in well-drained and imperfectly-drained paddy tracts, especially in Mahaweli system and other Major Irrigation schemes;
- Choose only 3-3½ months age paddy varieties where water storage of respective irrigation tanks and reservoirs remain at a satisfactory level at present (at least 30-40%);
- Otherwise switch to *Bethma* system or 2½ month age paddy varieties in tanks with low storages at present;
- Adoption of strict water issuing schedules in both major and minor irrigation schemes by taking prevailing rainfall in each week in to consideration during the growing season while it is being progressed;
- Adopt transplanting or seedling broadcasting (Parachute method) for crop establishment in paddy tracts;

- If a late water issue from a tank and reservoir is expected depending on the water storage at present, get ready with seed paddy of 2½ -3 months varieties through appropriate institutional arrangements;
- Rainfed upland cultivation to be carried out with the provision of supplementary irrigation facilities through agro-wells or Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) interventions in order minimize the risk of potential soil moisture stress conditions during vegetative phase of respective crops;
- Application of organic manure and mulching in rainfed upland crops should be encouraged to the maximum extent possible;
- Seek the advantage of Crop Insurance Scheme as a risk transfer mechanism in agriculture in a changing and variable climate.

An updated outlook will be issued in early November for rest of the 2020/21 Maha season in consultation with the Department of Meteorology, Colombo.



Director/Principal Scientist (Agro-climatology)

Ic. Additional Secretaries (Technology + Development), All District Secretaries, Director General of Irrigation, Commissioner General of Agrarian Development, Mahaweli Water Management Secretariat, Director (Information) and all Directors of the DoA