

② Discuss the link b/w normal monsoon & its effects on food prices in the country?

Introduction - Monsoon is a necessary condition for good crop yields this is both due to the change in crop patterns of monsoon & availability of products at reasonable price.

Dependence on Monsoon Season -

① Jun 1 to Sep 30 regarded as the monsoon period but over the years this traditional calculation changed.

② Monsoon is important as it drives the farmers to sow the seeds depending on the expectation of the rains.

③ area under cultivation -

Rice - 60%, pulses - 24%, coarse cereals - 20% &

(28-30)% oilseeds which depends on monsoon for their access to irrigation.

④ The recent trend of late arrival of monsoon distorted the cropping pattern & their yields.

(5) Regions especially like rain shadow areas & non-coastal areas have limited access to irrigation when monsoon fails as it affects the inter-cropping pattern.

(eg) Eastward interior regions like [UP, Bihar, Jharkhand].

Food prices Vs monsoon season

(i) production of Tur, Moong, Urad have declined viz-aviz past record, as arrival of monsoon delayed.

(ii) Rice managed to get 40 million tonnes though change in climate but for pulses - they are more vulnerable to minor diversion in cropping pattern.

(iii) MSP of crop have influence on other products lead to up & down of prices when monsoon arrival delayed (or) earlier.

(iv) Monsoon link with food prices can be seen when their prices ↑ at sharper rate adding to food inflation (eg) onion, tomato inflation.

Conclusion - Rice & Kharif pulses have 5-8% in WPI & 1-1.5% of other products thus, a good monsoon is good news but does not preclude other disturbances