BHARATAg
Growing India's Future

FIELD INTELLIGENCE EDITION

GROWING INDIA'S FUTURE

AGRICULTURE INSIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

THE FARMER'S MONTHLY FIELD GUIDE

Actionable Insights | Smarter Decisions | Better Yields





"Every decision in September shapes your harvest. **Observe. Plan. Act. Prosper.**"

SEPTEMBER FIELD QUESTION

Is your field ready for the next 30 days?

Check Crop Stage | Scout for Pests | Manage Water | Apply Right Solution | Plan for Better Returns

INDIA AT A GLANCE (Kharif 2026)

1,056.7
Lakh Ha
Total Kharif Area*
(As on 21 Aug 2026)

90%
of LPA
Monsoon Forecast 2026
(IMD Seasonal Outlook)

₹8,267
/Quintal
Cotton MSP 2026-27
(Highest Ever)

15+
Crops Covered
India & 4 Key States
Insights Inside

India
+ Andhra Pradesh
+ Telangana
+ Karnataka
+ Maharashtra

DATA DRIVEN
Reliable. Verifed. Timely.

FARMER CENTRIC
Practical. Local. Actionable.

SCIENCE BACKED
Research led. Evidence based.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Profitable farming. Resilient tomorrow.

One month. Many decisions. Stronger crops. Better returns.

Scan to download BharatAg Insights every month

* Source: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI (21 Aug 2026)

31 AUGUST 2026

Data sources, definitions & important disclaimer

A transparent source trail. Official statistics are separated from market reporting and BharatAg interpretation.

SOURCE	USED FOR	REFERENCE
India Meteorological Department (IMD)	Current monsoon activity, rainfall outlook, extended-range forecast and seasonal forecast.	https://mausam.imd.gov.in/
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare / PIB	All-India Progressive Kharif Crop Area Sown Report, area coverage as on 21 Aug 2026.	https://www.pib.gov.in/
PIB / Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs	MSP for 14 Kharif crops, Marketing Season 2026–27; approved 13 May 2026.	https://www.pib.gov.in/
Karnataka Government drought assessment / reported notification	101 drought-affected taluks, rainfall deficit and associated crop-loss indicators.	https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2026/Aug/28/101-taluks-in-Karnataka-declared-drought-hit
AGMARKNET / Directorate of Marketing & Inspection	Mandi/market information framework; current prices must be checked on the sale date.	https://agmarknet.gov.in/
State Agriculture Departments — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra	State crop, sowing, rainfall, pest and agricultural-advisory information where cited.	Respective official state agriculture portals/advisories
ICRA agriculture / Kharif assessment	Macro interpretation of Kharif sowing and rainfall conditions used as secondary analysis.	https://www.icra.in/

HOW THE DATA IS USED

Official government releases are the primary source for crop acreage and MSP. IMD is the primary source for weather information. Market information is treated as time-sensitive and indicative rather than a guaranteed farmer realisation. State-level information is not assumed to be directly comparable across states unless the source and period are comparable.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

For information and education only. This publication is not investment advice, crop-insurance advice, legal advice, or a substitute for a qualified agronomist, government extension officer, local weather advisory or approved agricultural-product label. Crop and input decisions must be adapted to local soil, variety, crop stage, pest/disease identification, weather, water availability and statutory requirements. Never use an agricultural chemical outside its approved label, registered crop/target, dose, PPE, pre-harvest interval or other instructions. Weather and market conditions can change rapidly. BharatAg Crop Science Pvt. Ltd. does not warrant that third-party information remains current after the stated data cut-off. Readers should verify critical decisions against the latest official advisory before acting.

Editorial note: Data cut-off is 31 August 2026. 'Insight', 'field implication' and 'watch' statements are BharatAg editorial interpretation of the cited information and are not official forecasts.

If you read only 5 pages, read these

A farmer-friendly summary of what matters most this month.

■ **WEATHER**	Rainfall is uneven. Peninsular India is facing a weaker near-term rainfall signal; root-zone moisture matters more than the district average.
■ **CROP STAGE**	September is a transition from establishment to yield-building for many Kharif crops. Protect the crop you already have.
■ **PEST WATCH**	Scout before spraying. Look at the underside of leaves, new growth, flowers, pods, bolls and fruits.
■ **WATER**	After heavy rain: drainage. During dry spells: root-zone moisture. Both can decide yield.
■ **MONEY**	MSP is a reference—not necessarily the price you receive. Quality, grade, arrivals, procurement and timing matter.
■ **NEXT SEASON**	Start Rabi planning early: seed, soil testing, nutrition, irrigation and cash-flow planning.

The September farmer rule

LOOK → CHECK → DECIDE → ACT → RECHECK

Do not treat a calendar date as a spray date. Treat crop stage + pest/disease + weather + label as the decision.

This report deliberately separates **facts**, **field interpretation** and **action ideas**. Product use must always follow the approved label and local agricultural recommendations.

Kharif 2026: acreage is close to last year, but the mix has changed

Official area-sown data as on 21 August 2026.

Rice	405.10 L ha	418.29 L ha	–13.19 L ha	Biggest acreage drag; water availability is crucial.
Pulses	113.63 L ha	112.14 L ha	+1.49 L ha	Relative resilience; urad gained strongly.
Coarse cereals	176.36 L ha	179.81 L ha	–3.45 L ha	Maize/millet mix matters by state.
Oilseeds	188.37 L ha	188.69 L ha	–0.32 L ha	Near-flat YoY but below normal.
Cotton	108.45 L ha	108.73 L ha	–0.28 L ha	Acreage almost unchanged; crop condition now dominates.
Sugarcane	58.44 L ha	58.87 L ha	–0.43 L ha	Slight decline; irrigation and mill economics matter.

Three numbers worth remembering

–13.19 L ha	+1.49 L ha	–0.28 L ha
Rice gap vs 2025	Pulses gain vs 2025	Cotton gap vs 2025

What it means: The acreage story is not “India has fewer crops.” It is “India has a different crop mix in a weaker-water year.” That matters for **water demand, crop protection, farm income, food prices and the next Rabi season.**

Monsoon watch: the next rainfall matters more than the last rainfall

IMD's latest information points to subdued rainfall activity over Peninsular India in the near term, while heavy rainfall is concentrated in parts of east/central India.

2026 MONSOON SIGNAL
IMD's second-stage forecast placed June–September rainfall at **90% of LPA ±4%**, with a high probability of below-normal rainfall. The latest extended-range information continues to show regional divergence.

Zone	September question	Farmer action
Peninsular India	Will the next 7–14 days restore soil moisture?	Check root-zone moisture; prioritise critical crop stages.
East/Central pockets	Can heavy rain create waterlogging?	Open drainage channels; avoid unnecessary field operations during saturated conditions.
Rainfed areas	How many effective wet days remain?	Protect soil moisture; avoid unnecessary tillage and input waste.
Irrigated areas	Is water available when crop needs it?	Plan irrigation around crop stage, not habit.

The 10-minute soil test

- Take a handful of soil from the active root zone—not the surface crust.
- Squeeze it. If it forms a weak ball and breaks easily, moisture may be workable; if it is powdery, the crop may be approaching stress.
- Look at the crop: leaf rolling, dull colour, drooping at the wrong time of day and poor new growth can be warning signs.
- After heavy rain, check the opposite problem: standing water, poor aeration and early disease symptoms.

Weather is a field variable. Use IMD district/block advisories for operational decisions.

Six crops, six September questions

Use this page as a field-scouting checklist—not as a blanket spray schedule.

Cotton	Bolls, sucking pests, bollworm signs	Protect boll retention; scout canopy and fruiting points.	Routine sprays without scouting.
Paddy	Stem borer, leaf folder, planthoppers; disease spots	Protect reproductive stages; maintain drainage and water discipline.	Excess nitrogen + unnecessary insecticide.
Chilli	Thrips, mites, fruit borer; leaf/fruit symptoms	Scout new growth and flowers; manage moisture and canopy humidity.	Mixing products without a verified need.
Soybean	Defoliators, pod development, foliar disease	Protect flowering/pod-setting; watch after cloudy/wet periods.	Ignoring early leaf damage until severe.
Maize	Stem borer, fall armyworm signs; moisture stress	Check whorl and growing point; protect critical stages.	Spraying the whole field without confirming pest.
Vegetables	Borers, sucking pests, fungal/bacterial symptoms	Short scouting interval because crop value and harvest timing are high.	Ignoring pre-harvest intervals.

Farmer tip: Take 3–5 clear photos before calling a dealer/agronomist: **whole plant + affected patch + close-up of symptom + underside of leaf + pest if visible.** Good diagnosis starts with good evidence.

ANDHRA PRADESH

A water-stress story with a very different outcome between command areas and rainfed belts.

~19 L ha	61%	Large deficit
Kharif area reported by 24 Aug	of normal area in the cited report	Rainfall remained a major constraint

- Paddy remains strategically important, but water security is the first variable to watch through September.
- Godavari command areas can behave very differently from Rayalaseema rainfed pockets; state averages hide this split.
- Where moisture is limited, crop-stage-based nutrition and protection become more important than routine input intensity.
- Horticulture and high-value crops need tighter scouting because disease, thrips and fruit-borer pressure can quickly affect marketable yield.

Farmer decision board

IF…	THEN…	WHY…
Soil moisture is adequate	Scout crop stage and pest pressure	Avoid unnecessary irrigation/sprays
Dry spell is extending	Protect critical crop stages first	Water is now the yield-limiting input
Heavy rain arrives	Prioritise drainage and disease scouting	Waterlogging can convert moisture into crop stress

September watch: Coastal AP has active weather warnings in the first days of September; use IMD local advisories for field operations.

TELANGANA

A meaningful crop-mix shift: less paddy, stronger pulse/oilseed interest.

11.69 M acres	~88%	–11%	+15%
Kharif area reported	of normal area covered	paddy area YoY	tur area YoY

- Late monsoon improvement accelerated sowing, but reservoir storage and irrigation availability remained important uncertainties.
- Paddy acreage declined materially while tur expanded—an economically important signal for both farmers and the input channel.
- Cotton remains a key commercial crop; September scouting should focus on boll development and sucking/borer complexes.
- For dealers, Telangana is a state where inventory should follow the crop mix, not last year's sales mix.

Money lens

Why crop diversification matters: A lower-water crop can reduce irrigation exposure, but the farmer also takes a different price, pest and market-risk profile. The right choice is therefore **water × yield × price × input cost × market access**—not water use alone.

September checklist

- Check soil moisture before irrigation decisions.
- Scout cotton and pulse fields at least once per week during active growth.
- Record pest incidence before buying a pesticide.
- Start Rabi seed and soil-testing conversations early in districts where Kharif moisture remains uncertain.

KARNATAKA

The most urgent drought-risk signal in this four-state comparison.

101 taluks	–30%	89	12
Declared drought-affected	State rainfall deficit to 26 Aug	Severely affected taluks	Moderately affected taluks

- The state government has declared 101 taluks drought-affected for Kharif 2026 and ordered crop-loss surveys.
- South Interior Karnataka, Malnad, North Interior Karnataka and coastal areas have all shown different levels of rainfall deficit.
- This is a high-priority state for moisture-saving agronomy, crop-stage decisions and district-level inventory planning.
- Where disease follows cloudy/wet weather, diagnosis must distinguish nutrient stress, viral symptoms and fungal/bacterial disease before intervention.

Red flag: Do not interpret a single rain event as recovery. In a drought-affected taluk, the question is whether the soil profile has been replenished enough to carry the crop through its next critical stage.

For Karnataka farmers, September should be treated as a **water-budget month**: prioritise high-value/critical crop stages, protect soil moisture, and avoid input expenditure that is unlikely to return yield.

MAHARASHTRA

Scale matters: soybean and cotton make every small change nationally important.

~13.6 M ha	~5.0 M ha	~4.9 M ha	~3.8 M ha
Kharif area by mid-Aug	Oilseed area	Soybean area	Cotton area

- Soybean is the dominant Kharif oilseed story and therefore a national edible-oil market signal.
- Cotton acreage is broadly stable; September crop condition and pest pressure can matter more than acreage changes.
- District divergence is large: Vidarbha, Marathwada, western Maharashtra and the Konkan belt can experience very different moisture outcomes.
- For soybean, the September focus should be flowering/pod-setting, defoliators, disease after humid periods and harvest-risk preparation.

Market insight

Do not confuse MSP with guaranteed farm-gate realisation. MSP is a policy reference. Actual farmer economics depend on variety/grade, moisture, quality, local arrivals, procurement access, storage and the timing of sale.

For soybean and cotton, the best September business question is not “What is today's price?” but **“What quality and yield can I realistically bring to market, and what are my storage/procurement options?”**

MSP, mandi price and farmer income are three different numbers

A farmer-friendly way to read the market without being misled by a single quotation.

MSP	Policy benchmark announced for eligible crops.	It is not a universal daily market price.
Mandi/modal price	Recent transaction/arrival signal for a market.	It does not equal every farmer's realised price.
Farm-gate realisation	What the farmer actually receives after quality, deductions and logistics.	It cannot be inferred from MSP alone.
Net farm income	Price × saleable yield − cultivation + finance + logistics + storage costs.	A high crop price does not guarantee high profit.

2026–27 Kharif MSP highlights

Crop	MSP ■/q	Increase vs 2025–26
Paddy Common	2,441	+72
Maize	2,410	+10
Tur/Arhar	8,450	+450
Urad	8,200	+400
Groundnut	7,517	+254
Soybean Yellow	5,708	+380
Cotton Medium Staple	8,267	+557
Sunflower	8,343	+622

Before selling: check moisture, grade, deductions, local arrivals and procurement availability. For current mandi rates, use AGMARKNET/state market systems on the day of sale.

Spend where the crop can still return the money

September is a good month to stop routine expenditure and prioritise measurable crop outcomes.

The farmer's input decision

Is the problem identified?	I can name the pest/disease/nutrient issue.	“Everyone nearby is spraying it.”
Is the crop at a responsive stage?	The intervention can still protect yield/quality.	Crop is already beyond the useful stage.
Is the weather suitable?	Rain/wind/temperature allow effective application.	Rain immediately after application or poor coverage conditions.
Is the product legally/technically appropriate?	Approved label + crop + dose + safety requirements match.	Off-label use, improvised mixes or unclear dose.
Will I measure the result?	I will re-scout and record the outcome.	No follow-up after spraying.

SAFETY FIRST
Always use the approved product label for crop, target pest, dose, application method, PPE, re-entry and pre-harvest interval. Never improvise a dose because the infestation “looks severe.”

A disciplined spray record should contain: **date • crop stage • pest/disease • product • dose • water volume • weather • operator • result.**

A 30-day checklist you can actually use

Print this page, keep it with the farm notebook, and tick it each week.

WEEK	DO THIS	WHY IT MATTERS
Week 1	Walk the field; map wet/dry/problem patches; photograph symptoms.	Turns a general farm into specific management zones.
Week 2	Scout crop-specific pests/disease; compare with previous week's notes.	Finds trend before damage becomes expensive.
Week 3	Review irrigation, nutrition and input spending against crop stage.	Protects cash flow and prevents low-return applications.
Week 4	Estimate harvest timing, likely yield, storage/procurement options; start Rabi plan.	Reduces distress selling and improves next-season preparation.

BHARATAG'S SEPTEMBER TAKEAWAY

Protect what you have.

In a weak and uneven monsoon year, the highest-return decision is often not adding another input—it is making the right input decision at the right crop stage, with enough moisture and the right weather window.

Good farming is not more inputs. Good farming is better decisions.

PRIMARY SOURCES & NOTES

- IMD — Monsoon information and extended-range forecasts, including 27 Aug–09 Sep 2026 outlook and 30 Aug weather bulletin.
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare / PIB — Progressive Kharif crop area sown report as on 21 Aug 2026.
- PIB / CCEA — MSP for Kharif crops, Marketing Season 2026–27, approved 13 May 2026.
- Government of India / PIB — 2026 monsoon and El Niño preparedness updates; sensitive-district monitoring.
- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Maharashtra agriculture/weather reporting available through August 2026; Karnataka drought declaration reported 28 Aug 2026.
- AGMARKNET — market-information and commodity-profile resources; current mandi quotations should be checked at the time of sale.
- ICRA — Kharif sowing and below-normal rainfall assessment, 3 Aug 2026.