

## Chapter 20

# FORECASTS OF CROPS

**20.1.** Forecast reports have to be submitted by the Deputy Commissioners to the Director of Land Record as shown in the statement below. Director of Land Records' Form No. 103 appended may be used for all forecasts:-

Sr. No.	Name of Crop	Districts from which forecasts are submitted	Dates on which forecasts are to reach the office of Director of Land Records, Himachal Pradesh					Remarks
			1st forecast	2nd forecast	3rd forecast	4th forecast	Final forecast	
1.	Wheat	All districts	5th January	5th March	—	—	15th May	
2.	Barley	All districts	5th January	5th March	—	—	5th May	
3.	Gram	All districts	5th January	5th March	—	—	5th May	
4.	Other Rabi pulses	All districts	5th January	—	—	—	5th May	
5.	Rice	All districts	5th October	5th Dec.	—	—	5th Jan.	
6.	Maize	All districts	21st October	—	—	—	5th Jan.	
7.	Kharif pulses	All districts	5th Sept.	—	—	—	5th January	
8.	Sannhemp	All districts	5th August	—	—	—	5th January	
9.	Jowar	All districts	21st Oct.	21st January	—	—	21st March	
10.	Bajra	All districts	21st Oct.	—	—	—	5th Jan.	
11.	Ragi	All districts	21st Oct.	—	—	—	18th Feb.	
12.	Sesamum	All districts	5th August	5th October	20th Dec.	—	5th Jan.	
13.	Tur	All districts	5th Sep.	5th January	—	—	5th May	
14.	Potato (Kharif) (Rabi)	All districts	5th Aug.	—	—	—	5th Jan.	
		All districts	21st Jan.	—	—	—	5th June	
15.	Tobacco	All districts	5th January	10th March	10th May	—	31st July	
16.	Cotton	All districts	31st July	30th Sept.	30th Nov.	30th Jan.	25th April	
17.	Sugarcane	All districts	11th June	11th Oct.	—	—	5th May	
18.	Chillies (dry)	All districts	—	—	—	—	15th April	

19.	Soyabean	All districts	—	—	—	—	5th Jan.
20.	Rape and Mustard	All districts	10th Dec.	19th Feb.	—	—	5th May
21.	Linseed	All districts	10th Dec.	19th Feb.	—	—	5th May
22.	Groundnut	All districts	5th Aug.	31st Oct.	—	—	31st Jan.
23.	Ginger (dry)	All districts	—	—	—	—	15th Jan.
24.	Corriander	All districts	21st July	—	—	—	10th Oct.
25.	Small millets (Kharif)	All districts	25th Oct.	5th Dec..	—	—	15th Jan.
26.	Turmeric	All districts	—	—	—	—	5th June
27.	Garlic	All districts	—	—	—	—	5th July.
28.	Onion	All districts	—	—	—	—	5th July.

**Importance of punctuality in the despatch of Forecasts.**

**20.2.** The publication of crop forecasts is always anxiously awaited by the Govt & Research workers for framing ensured food policies and further development in agriculture sector. As delay detracts greatly from their value, special efforts should be made to despatch all forecasts to the Director of Land Records by their due dates. There should be no difficulty as regards the first and second forecasts which, are merely estimates. The third and fourth forecasts, however, should contain a statement of the actual area sown, together with an estimate of the yield per hectare. Where it is found impossible to complete the crop inspection in time for the inclusion of correct figures of area in the third forecast, the best possible estimate should be submitted in their place. It should be noted that, revised figures will follow, and these should be despatched as soon as they have been prepared.

**20.3.** In the case of the first and second forecasts the estimate of area shown in the preliminary forecasts will be built up from estimates submitted by Patwaris. The method by which such estimates should be prepared by them need not be precisely prescribed. An approximate estimate of the area sown can be easily framed by personal inspection, and enquiries from cultivators who are generally in a position to give a fairly accurate idea of the area or the amount of seed sown by them. Kanungos and Tehsildars will be responsible for controlling the methods adopted by Patwaris and ensuring the avoidance of processes calculated to give faulty results. Kanungos and Tehsildars will also be responsible, after the ascertainment of the actual areas in girdawari, for comparing them with the areas estimated by Patwaris. When the large discrepancies are disclosed between the estimated and the actual areas, the Patwari concerned should be called to account. The final forecast is generally based on field to field inspection (complete enumeration) undertaken by Patwari.

**20.4.** The Director of Land Records prepares and publishes the State forecasts on the basis of the information supplied by the Deputy Commissioners in Director of Land Records' Form No. 103. In the case of third and final forecasts of all the crops he, however, checks the Tehsil estimates of outturn and then fixes the yield in Kgs. per hect. for each district separately for irrigated and unirrigated areas. Then the total outturn of the State is calculated in the Director of Land Records Office by applying this yield to the sown area reported by the Deputy Commissioners in their forecasts and a report of the forecasts together with the statement is submitted to the Director of Agriculture, a copy of each forecast is supplied to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi, Financial Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh. A copy is also pasted at the office of the Director of Land Records and the Director of Agriculture, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla for the information of the public.

**Disposal of forecasts reports**

**20.5.** The final reports should be retained till next settlement and then handed over to the Settlement Officer. The intermediate report should be preserved for two years from the date of submission and then destroyed.

The Director's printed reports on forecasted crops should be similarly disposed off.

**Guidelines of Government of India No. C 9-10/ES-T/48**

**20.6.** (i) It has been decided that the crop forecast form should consist of two parts, viz. (i) Introductory Note and (ii) Tabular Statement.

(ii) The object of the introductory note is to give a brief descriptive account of the main features of the cultivation of the crop, giving such general information as:- Was the rainfall timely? Adequate? What are the conditions under which sowings were made? Were the sowings early? Late? It should also briefly comment on the area under the crop, outturn and yield per hect, and prices. Additional information if available regarding an estimate of the outturn of the crop say by the method of crop cutting experiments should also be given in the introductory note.

(iii) The second part will give in the tabular form the district-wise area and yield figures according to the current estimates with the corresponding figures for the previous year and average of the 5 years ending with the previous year. It will also give information regarding the condition of the crop district-wise, harvest prices and irrigated area. (iv) In order that a uniform pattern be followed in writing up the introductory note, the proposed contents of the introductory notes are discussed below point by point:-

(1) The first paragraph should give a descriptive account of the area under the crop in the current season and the area in the previous year with percentage increase or decrease of current year's area over that of the previous year, with reasons for the same. The total irrigated area under then crop in the State may also be mentioned and commented.

(2) In the second para it may be mentioned whether the sowing were early or late in the first forecast report, whether the growth of the crop was normal or not in the second forecast report and whether harvesting was early or late in the final forecast report together with a summary of the general position during the period of crop growth. Mention may also be made of flowering of cotton in the cotton report etc. This description will naturally be regionwise wherever necessary.

(3) In the third para, an overall picture of the condition factor expressing the condition of the crop in the current year as a percentage of the normal condition should be given. This may be compared with the corresponding condition factor for the previous year. The total outturn of the crop in the current and the previous years may next be given, in those forecasts for which the outturns are to be given. The average yield per hect (in kgs) may also be worked out and mentioned in this para.

(4) In the fourth paragraph, the total value of the crop may be given for the final forecast based on the outturn and the harvest prices. Some of the district give this information even at present. The average farm harvest prices for the district may be commented in brief.

(5) In cases of crops like cotton and jute an estimate of the outturn of the crop may be made by framing independent estimates based on their utilization. Such information may be given in the last paragraph. If ultimately the results obtained by the crop-cutting experiments are accepted for the forecasts, naturally reference to these estimates need not be made in this para.

### **TABULAR STATEMENT**

The tabular form prescribed for the submission of the data is given in D.L.R. Form 103. The general scope of this form is discussed below:-

(1) The form prescribed will be used for all forecasts irrespective of whether they are preliminary or final. In such of the forecasts where outturns or harvest prices are not to be given the relevant columns may be left blank.

(2) Separate figures should be given for each Tehsil together with totals for the district into which the state is divided. The areas for which conventional estimates are given should be kept separate from the areas for which the regular forecast is made. It will be necessary to give the area and yield of the crops in which the crop is of minor importance also.

(3) Information regarding the percentage irrigated area should also be included in the form for final forecast for such crops for which irrigation statistics are collected. The importance of including this information in the final forecast need not be emphasised.

(4) The methods of improving the system of reporting the condition factor have already been suggested. The district condition factors expressing the yield per hect. of the crop in the current year as a percentage of the normal yield should also be given in such of the forecast returns where estimates of outturn are also given.

(5) The improvements that are necessary in the system of reporting harvest prices have been communicated. The districtwise harvest prices should be given in the final forecasts as proposed.

(6) The average figures for 5 years ending with the previous year and that the system of giving the averages should be extended to earlier forecasts also. Such a comparison of the current and previous year's figures and with the average figures for the preceding 5 years is essential to give a correct picture of the crop conditions even for the earlier forecasts also. The five years period considered should end with the previous years.

(7) The DLR Form No. 103 together with the explanatory notes is appended.

20.7 (1) The estimates of production for the final forecasts and revised estimates should be based on the results of crop-cutting experiments by Random Sampling Method in the case of crops on which such experiments are carried out in the State.

(2) The method of framing pre-harvest as well as post-harvest forecasts for crops not covered by the Sample Surveys shall remain the same as before (i.e., on the basis of the normal yield, modified according to the condition factor as ascertained through eye estimation.) For framing the final forecasts and revised estimates, the results of the crop-cutting surveys by the Random Sampling Method should be utilized. for the yield of the crops in the State as a whole and for major Divisions and districts there should be no difficulty in utilizing the results of such surveys since they give estimates of reasonable accuracy for these administrative units. With regard to the yield for districts of minor importance from the point of view of crop acreage, however, the crop-cutting surveys do not provide results to the same degree of accuracy and, therefore, the data from crop-cutting experiments should be supplemented by ancillary information collected at present under the existing official methods such as the product of crop acreage, the normal yield and the condition of crops ascertained through eye estimation.

(3) Wherever a change is made on the basis of calculating production of a crop from eye estimation to the crop-cutting surveys, two sets of figures should be published side by side arrived at by each method, for a period of two years, in order that the production figures in the current year can be compared with the previous years and to denote the extent of change in the production estimates made by the old and the new method.

..... Forecast Report on ..... (CROP) FOR THE YEAR, 19  
 ..... State

DLR Form No. 103

District	Name of tehsils	Area in hectares						Yield in metric tonnes					Condition factor	Farm harvest prices	Remarks
		Of current year's crop	Of previous year's crop	Average of preceding 5 years	% by which col. 3 exceeds or is less than		Area irrigated in the current year	Of current year's crop	Of previous year's crop	Average of preceding 5 years	% by which col. 9 exceeds or is less than				
					col. 4	col. 5					col. 10	col. 11			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Due date fixed by the Central Government .....

Date on which this return is despatched .....

Reasons for delay, if any .....

Signature.....

Instruction for filling in the proforma for the submission of crop forecast data by the State Governments.

(i) The form is to be used for all forecasts, the columns that do not relate to any particular forecast being left blank. In case of cotton, details of area and yield of cotton under specified varieties is to be given as at present. In case of rice separate returns may be furnished for summer, winter and autumn, where more than one crop is grown. Similarly, in the case of jawar, where Kharif as well as Rabi crops are grown, separate returns may be furnished.

(ii) Col. (2): Separate figures should be given for each Tehsil together with sub-totals for the district into which State is divided. However, districts in which the crop covers only a few hectares need not be shown separately but lumped together under 'others' for each district. States, having areas for which

conventional estimates are made should be shown such areas separately from those areas for which regular forecasts are made.

(iii) *Col. (3)*: Column 3 should give the total area under the crop in the current year, double cropped area being counted twice.

(iv) *Cols. (4) to (7)*: In these columns the figures for the previous year and for the five years average should relate to the corresponding forecasts. In order to have a correct picture at the crop conditions, it is necessary to compare the current and previous year's figures with the normal. The normal being the average of the previous five years ending with the previous year. States that have been set-up recently and hence do not possess the necessary data for the previous five years may give average for the years for which data is available with them, the fact being stated in foot-note.

(v) *Col. (8)*: Percentage of area irrigated under the crop to the total area under the crop in each district should be given for the current year in the final forecast only. This information may be given for such crop at least that have considerable irrigated area under them and for which irrigation statistics are available. Crops having negligible irrigated area under them need not be shown here.

(vi) *Cols. (9) to (13)*: Same remarks as given under para (iv) above apply to these columns. These columns may be left blank for the earlier forecasts for which information on yield is not to be given.

(vii) *Col. (14)*: The district condition factors expressing the yield per hectare of the crop in the current year as percentage of the normal yield should be given.

(viii) *Col. (15)*: District-wise farm harvest prices should be given in the final forecasts only.

(ix) *Col. (16)*: The reasons for difference of magnitude over and above 10 per cent between the current and previous year's figures may be explained in this column.

(x) The date fixed for the submission of the forecast returns and the date on which the forecast return is actually despatched should be given in the space provided for the purpose at the bottom of the return. The reasons for delay, if any, should be explained.

(xi) The production of rice is to be given in terms of cleaned rice, of sugarcane in terms of gur, of groundnuts in terms of nuts-in-shell, of cotton in terms of cotton lint in bales of 170kg. each of Ginger and chillies in terms of dry ginger and chillies respectively and of Tobacco in terms of cured leaf.

(xii) If data in respect of "Farm Prices" and percentage of irrigated area, etc. do not become available by the due date of the final forecast, the State Government should not hold up the forecast report for filling in these data. The final forecast returns should be despatched in time missing particulars may, however, be separately furnished as soon as they become available.