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India: Peanut Production Estimated Lower Due to Insufficient Southern Rainfall

India's total peanut production for 2009/10 is forecast at 5.2 million tons, down 1.6 million or 24 percent from last month and down 17 percent from last year. Despite improved rainfall in some key peanut growing areas by the end of August, the USDA is forecasting slightly below-average yield, at 0.96 tons per hectare, due to extended dry spells earlier in the summer during crop establishment and development growth stages. India's monsoon rainfall pattern has been erratic this year with many regions receiving inadequate and uneven rainfall distribution. Cumulative rainfall for the season is 25 percent below normal for the country as a whole. The low rainfall has resulted in reduced sown area and lower potential yields, particularly in key peanut growing regions in the south and northwest. By the end of August, planting progress reports indicated that sown area was approximately 24 percent lower than last year. The area decline was mainly in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, the nation's two largest producers. *(For more information, contact Dath Mita at 202-720-1071.)*

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board

