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விவசாயத் திணைக்களம்
Department of Agriculture

මගේ අංකය }
எனது எண் } NRMC/04/Agro-
My No. } met/Advisory/2025/04

ඔබේ අංකය }
உமது எண் }
Your No. }

දිනය }
திகதி } 07.04.2025
Date }

Agro-met Advisory: April 2025
(For the months of April, May and June)

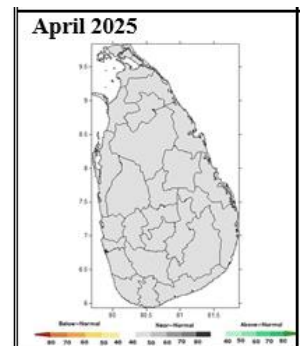
The Natural Resources Management Centre (NRMC), Department of Agriculture (DoA) has released the Agro-met advisory for April 2025, which incorporates weather forecasts provided by the Department of Meteorology (DoM) and the irrigation water availability information from the Irrigation Department (ID), Water Management Secretariat of Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL-WMS) and the Department of Agrarian Development (DAD). Field-level data and information for this document were collected from the DoA, MASL, ID, DAD and plantation research institutes.

The **Department of Meteorology (DoM)** has issued the seasonal weather forecast for the upcoming three-month period, outlining the anticipated weather conditions;

Rainfall forecast for April

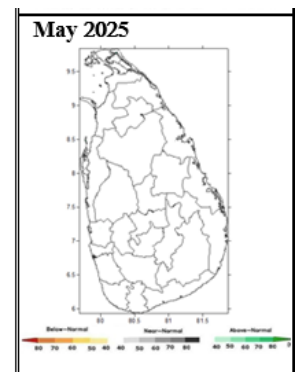
There is a higher chance of having near-normal rainfalls over most parts of the country during April 2025.

The possibility for temporally strong gusty wind and lightning activities associated with thundershowers is higher during the month.



Rainfall forecast for May

There is still no weather prediction available for May 2025. However, the development of synoptic-scale systems such as lows, depressions, and cyclones remains possible in the latter part of the month, which could lead to increased rainfall



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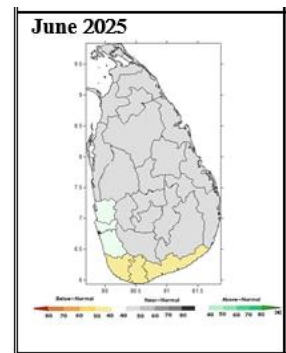
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Rainfall forecast for **June**

According to the available global model forecasts, there is a possibility for below-normal rainfall over the southern province, above normal over the western province, and near-normal elsewhere during the month of June 2025.



With the available weather predictions, it is advisable to consider general climatological rainfall values as near-normal rainfall values for each month when undertaking agricultural planning. Agro-ecological region-wise expected average rainfall values are attached in Table 1 - 3.

The **Irrigation Department (ID)** stated that the current water levels in reservoirs are satisfactory for a successful *Yala* season. The average effective storage in major reservoirs is approximately 91% for 07.04.2025 (Table 4). ID also noted that land preparation activities are progressing on schedule with most expected to be completed by the end of April.

According to the **Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL)**, 98% of harvesting activities for the 2024/25 *Maha* season have been completed. However, crop damage caused by prevailing weather conditions over the past couple of months is expected to impact production. For the upcoming *Yala* season, MASL has allocated 76,390 ha for paddy cultivation and 19,944 ha for Other Field Crops (OFCs). The planned OFCs include maize, soybean, big onion, and green gram. Green gram is specifically cultivated for seed production to support third-season cultivation. Additionally, land preparation for the 2025 *Yala* season has commenced in System B, Rambakan Oya, and Udawalawe irrigation systems.

The **Water Management Secretariat (WMS) of MASL** reported that 92% of irrigation water storage is currently available (01.04.2025) in reservoirs managed by the MASL (Table 5). Additionally, rainfall received so far has already reached 145% of the expected *Maha* season total. Almost all irrigation systems controlled by WMS-MASL, except System H and Udawalawe, have excess storage water beyond the required quantity for a successful *Yala* season. Water issuance in areas controlled by WMS began on the 20th of February and will continue until the 25th of April, with 45% of the planned water releases already underway. According to the proposed plans, approximately 84% of the cultivation area under WMS (including both MASL and ID) will be allocated for paddy, while the remaining 16% will be designated for other field crops (OFCs).

Most cultivation activities for the 2024/25 *Maha* season under the **Department of Agrarian Development (DAD)** have been nearly completed. Additionally, land preparation activities for the upcoming 2025 *Yala* season under minor irrigation schemes have been started, and crop establishment is expected to continue until late April. Currently, about 70% of minor tanks have sufficient water storage to support a successful *Yala* season. Due to high water

availability and ongoing rainfall, many farmers are inclined toward paddy cultivation. However, DAD emphasizes the importance of considering weather conditions in the latter part of the season, particularly when selecting for extensive cultivation of long-aged paddy varieties. Moreover, since minor tank water levels remain relatively high, continued heavy rainfall in the coming days could lead to potential damage to these tanks. Therefore, special attention is needed to mitigate such risks.

Based on available weather information, the Agro-met Advisory Committee recommends the following agronomic interventions to ensure optimum production during the 2025 *Yala* season.

Paddy cultivation

- According to the DoM, the first inter-monsoon conditions are now established. Based on the short- and medium-range weather forecasts of DoM, heavy rains with regional variations are expected until mid-April. Therefore, farmers in the land preparation stage should highly utilize rainwater for land preparation activities.
- However, if farmers are at the third stage of land preparation (mainly leveling) or field establishment, they should consider the regional weather forecast and avoid heavy rainy days, as excessive rainfall can damage broadcasted seeds or transplanted seedlings.
- Even though current storage levels in the irrigation systems are satisfactory, water scarcity may arise during the latter part of the *Yala* season. Therefore, it is advisable to select three-month (3) or three-and-a-half-month (3½) paddy varieties for irrigated farming systems.
- Two and half (2½) or three (3) months-aged paddy varieties are recommended for rainfed rice systems.
- Pest and disease incidences have been reported in certain areas where cultivation activities have already started. Therefore, seed treatment is recommended, especially to prevent or control damage caused by rice thrips.
- Over the past couple of months, some rainfall was received in the Dry and Intermediate Zones. As a result, weed control under dry soil conditions may become challenging. Therefore, proper land preparation practices should be carefully followed.
- It is recommended to have three weeks for land preparation, including primary, secondary and tertiary tillage and then crop establishment
- Following agronomic practices are proposed to be followed during the recommended three weeks of land preparation activities.
 - Utilize a Disc plough (4-wheel tractor) or Mould-board plough (2-wheel tractor) for ploughing (6” – 9”) during the first land preparation.

- After the primary tillage, clean the bunds and incorporate organic matter (leaf manure and cow dung) before the second ploughing.
 - Maintain standing water, covering half of each ploughed soil clods, (*Hee-kata*), and allow 10-14 days for weed seed germination.
 - Conduct the second ploughing perpendicular to the primary tillage using a tine tiller or a rotovator. Maintain standing water at a level of 1”- 2” for 7 days.
 - Then repair and re-plaster bunds as needed.
 - Tertiary tillage should include puddling and levelling. Proper puddling followed by thorough levelling is essential for efficient and uniform water management, weed control and proper crop establishment.
 - At levelling, it is advised to incorporate compost (if not added organic matter at the secondary tillage), half burn paddy husk and TSP as recommended by the DOA.
- The **Seed and Planting Material Development Centre (SPMDC)** stated that the rainfall received over the past couple of months has had some impact on seed paddy production. However, 60% of the harvest has already been completed, and the remaining 40% is currently in progress. The distribution of basic seeds to seed production farmers and institutions has now commenced. Additionally, seeds produced by contract growers are currently being purchased for distribution in the upcoming 2025 *Yala* season.

Other Field Crops (OFCs)

- Given the prevailing rainy conditions and the satisfactory carryover storage levels in reservoirs, farmers are more inclined to cultivate paddy rather than OFCs. Under such circumstances, it is important to carefully plan the third season's cultivation, with special attention to achieving national targets for OFC production.
- In this situation, it is important to initiate the seasonal cultivation of both paddy and OFCs on time and complete all cultivation activities on time leaving sufficient time for mid-season cultivation.
- Furthermore, as there is still no proper weather prediction for the latter half of the *Yala* season, starting the season on time will allow farmers to make the best use of the available water and continue cultivation using the remaining soil moisture.
- Farmers are advised to ensure proper drainage conditions when cultivating OFCs in paddy lands, to ensure the continuity of the season, even in the event of unexpected rain, especially in the month of May.

- The availability of OFCs at the SPMDC for the 2025 *Yala* season is presented in the following table. The SPMDC has also announced that the issuance of OFC seeds for the 2025 *Yala* season has already commenced.

SPMDC - AVAILABLE OFC STOCK ON 2025.04.04	
CROP	STOCK (KG)
BLACK GRAM	38,274
GREEN GRAM	76,697
COWPEA	25,631
SOYA	50,000
MAIZE	251
GROUND NUT	6,377
SEASAME	563
FINGER MILLET	436
CHILLI OPV	2,972
KOLLU	27
TOTAL	201,228

Plantation Crops

Tea

Near-normal rainfall level has been forecasted for the Month of April 2024, with high rainfalls in the first week. Below normal maximum (day) temperatures for most tea-growing districts have been forecasted, except Galle.

- Agronomic operations like, pruning and replanting, can be commenced.
- Normal plucking can be practiced.
- Fertilizer application should be practiced, only when fields have sufficient soil moisture.
- Slash the weeds, allowing soft weeds only. Manual weeding can be practiced, except for Uva region.
- Shade trees can be lopped.
- Land preparation can be started for new planting.
- Attention should be given to possible thunder when working outdoors.

Coconut

Most of the coconut growing areas will get near normal rainfall during April 2025 which is more than 100 mm per month which is sufficient rainfall for coconut cultivation. Since the rainfall in May 2025 is unpredictable,

- Coconut growers can start fertilizer application in April
- Establish/renovate contour drains and drainage drains. Drainage drains are established to remove excess water and they should be cut with low slope and with barriers to reduce the runoff and facilitate infiltration.

- Mulching around the manure circle using coconut fronds, husks, weed thrash, straw, or any plant materials.
- Adopt moisture conservation practices such as husk pits, coir dust pith
- Addition of organic matter
- Rainwater harvesting - To collect rainwater within the land using ponds (Pathaha) to store water and use during drought

However, Hambantota, Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Mullaithivu, Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya will get less than 100 mm rainfall during April and hence it is recommended to avoid fertilizer application and adopt soil and moisture conservation practices.

Cinnamon

- During the coming month, planting of seedlings in lands prepared for new cinnamon plantations can be done.
- For mature plantations practices of dolomite application, harvesting and gap filling can be carried out

Note: Please consider that this advisory was prepared based on national-level information. If available, it is advisable to consider localized detailed information as a supplementary to this advisory.

An updated Agro-met Advisory will be issued in early May 2025 in consultation with members of the technical advisory committee, other relevant resource persons, and stakeholders.

Technical Advisory Team Members

- Ms. Anusha Warnasooriya (Director – Climate Change and Research) Department of Meteorology
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- Mr. D.D. Perera (Technical Officer - Water Management Division) Department of Agrarian Development
- Dr. M.A.P.W.K. Malaviarachchi (Director) Field Crops Research and Development Institute
- Ms. T.M.P.G.S.P. Thennakoon (Additional Director- IC) National Agriculture Information and Communication Centre
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- Ms. P.H.D.P. Karunananda, (Director) Natural Resources Management Centre

- Ms. Aruni B. Abeysekera (Principal Agriculture Scientist - Agro-climatology and Climate Change) (Covering up) - Natural Resources Management Centre

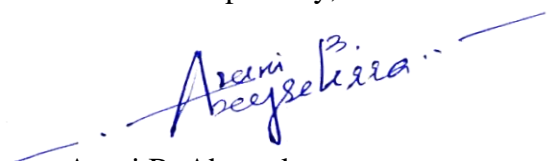
For Plantation Crops:

- Dr. Shayamantha Bandara (Principal Research Officer) Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka
- Ms. K.V.N.N. Jayalath (Senior Research Officer) Coconut Research Institute
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Special Thanks:

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Table 1: Agro-ecological region-wise expected rainfall values for **April**

Dry Zone (mm)			Intermediate Zone (mm)			Wet Zone (mm)	
AER	Apr		AER	Apr		AER	Apr
DL1a	150.9		IL1a	123.4		WL1a	250.2
DL1b	87.7		IL1b	98.1		WL1b	184.5
DL1c	57.0		IL1c	113.2		WL2a	161.3
DL1d	15.6		IL2	84.0		WL2b	195.4
DL1e	38.0		IL3	113.5		WL3	146.9
DL1f	72.3		IM1a	119.8		WM1a	236.4
DL2a	45.6		IM1b	108.1		WM1b	229.7
DL2b	26.1		IM1c	91.1		WM2a	179.7
DL3	43.3		IM2a	175.4		WM 2b	167.3
DL4	41.8		IM2b	158.7		WM3a	162.6
DL5	51.7		IM3a	98.4		WM3b	118.8
			IM3b	106.5		WU1	189.8
			IM3c	92.9		WU2a	161.3
			IU1	125.6		WU2b	184.5
			IU2	123.4		WU3	123.0
			IU3a	250.4			
			IU3b	197.5			
			IU3c	144.4			
			IU3d	100.3			
			IU3e	99.9			

Table 2: Agro-ecological region-wise expected rainfall values for **May**

Dry Zone (mm)			Intermediate Zone (mm)			Wet Zone (mm)	
AER	May		AER	May		AER	May
DL1a	44.5		IL1a	104.0		WL1a	358.3
DL1b	31.8		IL1b	88.5		WL1b	345.7
DL1c	27.1		IL1c	62.9		WL2a	205.3
DL1d	17.5		IL2	40.0		WL2b	142.4
DL1e	24.3		IL3	60.7		WL3	198.8
DL1f	27.5		IM1a	67.3		WM1a	293.3
DL2a	29.5		IM1b	42.0		WM1b	252.8
DL2b	14.5		IM1c	34.5		WM2a	158.7
DL3	18.5		IM2a	121.4		WM 2b	143.4
DL4	13.7		IM2b	78.4		WM3a	107.3
DL5	21.0		IM3a	82.9		WM3b	85.6
			IM3b	46.7		WU1	244.5
			IM3c	55.0		WU2a	170.5
			IU1	81.4		WU2b	156.4
			IU2	84.1		WU3	123.0
			IU3a	94.2			
			IU3b	84.6			
			IU3c	78.0			
			IU3d	95.8			
			IU3e	70.6			

(Source: Punyawardena *et al.* 2003, Agro-ecological Region Map)

Table 3: Agro-ecological region wise expected rainfall values for **June**

Dry Zone (mm)			Intermediate Zone (mm)			Wet Zone (mm)	
AER	Jun		AER	Jun		AER	Jun
DL1a	4.9		IL1a	65.8		WL1a	280.5
DL1b	3.1		IL1b	52.4		WL1b	227.2
DL1c	1.1		IL1c	12.9		WL2a	181.7
DL1d	0.1		IL2	5.7		WL2b	164.3
DL1e	0.0		IL3	18.5		WL3	121.2
DL1f	0.4		IM1a	19.4		WM1a	312.5
DL2a	3.5		IM1b	27.7		WM1b	227.4
DL2b	30.2		IM1c	5.6		WM2a	226.4
DL3	0.7		IM2a	77.8		WM 2b	160.0
DL4	0.0		IM2b	16.2		WM3a	121.3
DL5	28.6		IM3a	92.9		WM3b	79.4
			IM3b	39.0		WU1	344.8
			IM3c	50.1		WU2a	274.3
			IU1	83.1		WU2b	217.6
			IU2	51.1		WU3	137.9
			IU3a	16.5			
			IU3b	22.8			
			IU3c	11.7			
			IU3d	12.6			
			IU3e	17.3			

(Source: Punyawardena *et al.* 2003, Agro-ecological Region Map)

Table 4: Summary of daily water levels and storage of major reservoirs (07.04.2025)

NO	RANGE	NO OF TANKS	STORAGE (Acft)				
			GROSS	DEAD	PRESENT	EFFECTIVE	
						Acft.	%
1	AMPARA	9	1,052,221	14,909	886,754	871,845	84.0%
2	ANURADAPURA	10	558,572	42,735	507,902	465,167	90.2%
3	BADULLA	7	78,492	6,149	78,167	72,018	99.6%
4	BATTICALOA	4	140,133	1,085	137,018	135,933	97.8%
5	HAMBANTOTA	10	377,738	33,172	367,411	334,239	97.0%
6	GALLE	2	3,081	-	3,027	3,027	98.2%
7	KANDY	3	28,450	386	26,851	26,465	94.3%
8	KURUNEGALA	10	140,920	5,561	138,219	132,659	98.0%
9	MONARAGALA	3	44,872	2,815	35,087	32,272	76.7%
10	POLONNARUWA	4	352,010	24,300	344,542	320,242	97.7%
11	PUTTALAM	2	74,261	8,400	73,520	65,120	98.9%
12	TRINCOMALEE	5	191,288	2,555	184,698	182,143	96.5%
13	MANNAR	4	67,383	551	63,598	63,047	94.3%
	TOTAL	73	3,109,420	142,618	2,846,795	2,704,178	91.1%

(Source: Water Management Division, Department of Irrigation)

Table 5: Summary of Major Reservoir/Tank Storage - Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (01.04.2025)

Sr. No.	River Basin	System	Tank Name	Full Capacity (MCM)	Storage at 2025/04/01
1	Maduru Oya	B	Pimburaththawa	49.34	49.34
2	Maduru Oya	B	Aralaganwila	14.96	14.96
3	Maduru Oya	B	Randiyawewa	6.37	5.10
4	Maduru Oya	B	Madurangala wewa	4.11	3.70
5	Maduru Oya	B	Sewanawewa	3.69	3.32
6	Maduru Oya	B	Muthugala wewa	3.64	3.64
7	Mahaweli	C	Henanigala	12.80	11.26
8	Kala Oya	H	Konwewa	3.95	3.40
9	Kala Oya	H	Paindikulama	3.85	3.08
10	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Randenigala	801.50	735.47
11	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Victoria	721.20	570.66
12	Maduru Oya	MD&RO	Maduruoya	596.60	598.53
13	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Moragahakanda	557.90	518.63
14	Walawa	MD&RO	Udawalawa	268.70	271.23
15	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Kaluganga	248.00	248.04
16	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Kothmale	170.90	130.87
17	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Ulhititiya	146.10	139.65
18	Kala Oya	MD&RO	Kalawewa	104.00	100.71
19	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Loggaloya	48.00	40.39
20	Kala Oya	MD&RO	Kandalama	33.80	34.06
21	Walawa	MD&RO	Chandrikawewa	27.70	27.15
22	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Bowathenna	23.50	20.65
23	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Hepolaoya	12.60	9.90
24	Kala Oya	MD&RO	Dambuloya	11.70	11.16
25	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Rantambe	7.00	5.21
26	Mahaweli	MD&RO	Polgolla	4.45	4.07
27	Walawa	Walawa	Kiriibbanwewa	16.53	16.20
28	Walawa	Walawa	Urusitawewa	4.73	4.73
29	Walawa	Walawa	Habaraluwewa	3.79	3.71
30	Walawa	Walawa	Galwewa	3.79	3.60
31	Walawa	Walawa	Andarawewa	3.21	3.05
Total			mcm	3,918.41	3,595.47
			Acft	3,173,913	2,912,328
% Available				92%	

(Source: Water Management Secretariat - Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka)