Turning Forecasts into Protection: Crops Saved During Cyclone 'Montha' - AMFU, Chintapalli

Weather-Related Challenges during Cyclone Montha (October 2025)

During 29th and 30th October 2025, the Alluri Sitharama Raju district experienced heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds due to Cyclone Montha. Such extreme weather posed a serious threat to standing crops, especially paddy nearing harvest and other field crops, due to risks of lodging, grain discoloration, waterlogging, and yield loss.

Agromet Advisory Issued and Interventions Suggested

The Agrometeorological Field Unit (AMFU), RARS, Chintapalli**,** issued a district-level agromet advisory bulletin on 28th October 2025**,** warning farmers about heavy rainfall and strong winds associated with Cyclone Montha.

Key recommendations included:

- Advance harvesting of paddy that had reached maturity to avoid lodging and grain quality deterioration.
- Ensuring proper drainage in crop fields to prevent water stagnation and soil erosion.
- Avoidance of fertilizer and pesticide application during the cyclone period.
- Protection of standing crops by timely removal of excess water after heavy rains.

Farmer Response and Field-Level Action

Farmer Name: Mr. V. Sathibabu, **Village:** Ebolam, **District:** Alluri Sitharama Raju **Crop(s):** Rice (Paddy), Niger, and other field crops **Crop type:** Cereals.

The farmer closely followed the agromet advisory issued prior to the cyclone. As advised, he harvested the paddy crop in advance before the onset of heavy rains. For the remaining crops such as niger and other field crops**,** he ensured proper drainage and avoided field operations during the cyclone period.

Outcome and Reported Benefits

Reported yield impact: Paddy safely harvested ahead of cyclone impact, preventing damage and post-harvest losses. Standing crops effectively protected from waterlogging and lodging.

Input costs reduced by avoiding unnecessary chemical sprays.

Reported economic benefit: ₹10,000/- to ₹15,000/- (approx.) per acre.



Fig: Farmer Sathibabu harvest paddy early to prevent damage from heavy rainfall