



ICAR-CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR JUTE AND ALLIED FIBRES

Barrackpore, Kolkata – 700121, West Bengal

AGRO-ADVISORY

TO FARMING COMMUNITY & EXTENSION PERSONNEL

SPECIAL STATE-WISE CONTINGENCY PLAN

WEST BENGAL • BIHAR • ASSAM • ODISHA

OCTOBER 2026

HARVEST ON TIME • PROTECT FIBRE • CONSERVE WATER

SUSTAINABLE FIBRE CROPS | RESILIENT FARMERS | GREENER TOMORROW

Weather & El Niño Considerations

- October is a transition from the southwest monsoon to post-monsoon conditions. Expect alternating dry spells and occasional heavy rainfall or thunderstorms.
- El Niño is strengthening. The source advisory cites the September 2026 NOAA Climate Prediction Center outlook: greater than 90% probability of a very strong El Niño in autumn–winter 2026–27, and 100% probability for October–November–December (OND).
- The outlook gives a 75% probability that OND 2026 will reach historic El Niño strength ($> +2.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ Relative Oceanic Niño Index, RONI). Impacts will not be uniform in every region.
- **October priorities:** rainfall variability, drying retting-water sources, fibre drying, residual soil moisture and timely establishment of succeeding crops.
- Early-October rainfall episodes may still occur across West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Assam/Northeast India; protect harvested fibre and provide drainage where required.

OCTOBER FIELD RULE

Follow local forecasts • Drain excess water • Save water during dry spells • Protect fibre quality

I. West Bengal

MAJOR OCTOBER CONCERNS

Harvesting and retting • Fibre quality • Sudden rainfall • Residual soil moisture • Timely rabi establishment

Period	Priority action for farmers	Contingency action
1–7 Oct	Complete remaining mature jute/mesta harvest and finish retting.	Rain: protect bundles and ensure drainage. Dry: prioritize water for retting and washing.
8–14 Oct	Complete fibre extraction, washing and drying during sunny periods.	Avoid prolonged soaking; dry fibre immediately after washing.
15–21 Oct	Prepare land and establish suitable succeeding rabi crops using residual moisture.	Dry: conserve moisture and minimize tillage. Wet: delay tillage until soil is workable.
22–31 Oct	Complete rabi establishment and maintain field moisture.	Protective irrigation only where essential; avoid excess irrigation after rain.

- Complete remaining harvest without delay; do not expose extracted fibre to repeated rain.
- Use CRIJAF SONA/microbial retting where water is limited or quality is poor.
- Drain low-lying fields; preserve residual moisture and establish suitable succeeding crops.

II. Bihar

MAJOR OCTOBER CONCERNS

Late harvest • Retting-water availability • Fibre drying • Residual moisture • Rabi establishment

Priority districts: Purnea, Katihar, Araria, Kishanganj, Supaul, Saharsa and Madhepura

Period	Priority action for farmers	Contingency action
1–7 Oct	Finish harvesting/retting; protect bundles.	After rain, drain fields and move bundles to raised places.
8–14 Oct	Complete extraction, washing and drying.	If water is inadequate, use ribbon/microbial retting.
15–21 Oct	Prepare land and establish suitable rabi crops using residual moisture.	Avoid unnecessary irrigation immediately after rainfall.
22–31 Oct	Complete rabi establishment and conserve moisture.	Use life-saving irrigation in dry spells where available; retain suitable mulch.

- Use farm/community ponds while water remains available; shift to ribbon retting when pond/canal water is low.
- CRIJAF SONA-assisted retting can shorten retting duration and improve fibre quality.
- Drain low fields quickly; avoid fertilizer application on saturated soils.

III. Assam

MAJOR OCTOBER CONCERNS

Localized flood/waterlogging • Harvesting • Retting and drying • Drainage • Rabi establishment

Period	Priority action for farmers	Contingency action
1–7 Oct	Harvest mature jute/mesta; keep bundles on raised locations.	After heavy rain, drain standing water quickly; prevent prolonged submergence.
8–14 Oct	Complete retting, washing and fibre drying.	Use clean water; avoid polluted floodwater.
15–21 Oct	Prepare fields after drainage.	Postpone tillage while soil remains wet.
22–31 Oct	Establish succeeding crops according to moisture and drainage.	Conserve moisture through minimum soil disturbance and residue retention.

- Drainage is the first priority in waterlogged fields; harvest before prolonged inundation.
- Use clean water for retting; where water is insufficient, use ribbon/microbial retting.
- Monitor stem/foot rot, leaf diseases and insect pests; identify elevated community retting sites.

IV. Odisha

MAJOR OCTOBER CONCERNS

Late rainfall/heavy showers • Harvesting and retting • Fibre drying • Water conservation • Rabi crops
Priority areas: Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack and adjoining areas

Period	Priority action for farmers	Contingency action
1–7 Oct	Complete remaining jute harvest/retting; inspect drains.	Heavy rain: drain quickly and protect bundles/fibre.
8–14 Oct	Complete fibre washing and drying during sunny periods.	Do not leave washed fibre exposed to rain.
15–21 Oct	Prepare succeeding rabi crops based on land type and residual moisture.	Dry spell: conserve moisture. Wet soil: postpone tillage.
22–31 Oct	Maintain established rabi crops; use stored water judiciously.	Protective irrigation only at critical stages where available.

- Preserve farm ponds and rainwater-harvesting structures for critical irrigation/retting.
- Promote ribbon/microbial retting where water is scarce; drain coastal and low-lying fields.
- Use residual moisture efficiently; conserve harvested rainwater in sisal-based systems.

Common Retting & Water Conservation

Situation	Immediate action
Adequate retting water	Use clean water and remove fibre at optimum retting stage.
Low pond/canal water	Shift to ribbon retting.
Very limited water	Use CRIJAF SONA/microbial-assisted retting.
Heavy rainfall	Protect bundles; avoid uncontrolled prolonged submergence.
Fibre ready for extraction	Extract, wash and dry at the first suitable sunny period.
Washed fibre before rain	Move fibre to a protected drying area.
Polluted/flood water	Do not use directly for retting or washing.

RAINWATER HARVESTING FOR FUTURE RETTING & IRRIGATION

Maintain farm ponds. Recommended in-situ pond: approximately 40 ft × 30 ft × 5 ft, supporting irrigation/retting of jute harvested from about 0.5 acre at a time. A 150–300 micron LDPE lining may reduce seepage.

Advisory for Other Allied Fibre Crops

Crop	Immediate action
Mesta	• Harvest mature plants at the appropriate stage where ready. • Protect cut stems from prolonged rain or submergence. • Use clean retting water; • consider ribbon or microbial-assisted retting when water is limited. • Drain fields after heavy rain and dry fibre promptly.
Sisal	• Maintain rainwater-harvesting structures and conserve stored water for critical needs. • Ensure drainage during prolonged wet conditions and avoid water stagnation around roots. • Remove damaged or diseased leaves with clean tools and handle harvested leaves carefully.
Kenaf	• Harvest mature stands according to local variety and planting date. • Protect cut stems from prolonged soaking and contamination. • Use clean retting water and process fibre during suitable weather. • Plan the next crop according to soil moisture and water availability.
Ramie	• Maintain drainage in established stands and avoid waterlogging. • Harvest shoots according to the local cutting schedule; • keep material clean and process promptly. • During dry spells, conserve soil moisture and irrigate only when needed and available. Maintain field sanitation and monitor pests and diseases.

Common Pest & Disease Contingency

AFTER RAINFALL

- Inspect fields twice weekly.
- Improve drainage immediately.
- Watch for stem/foot rot and leaf diseases.
- Monitor hairy caterpillar and semilooper where crop remains standing.

DURING DRY SPELLS

- Monitor yellow mite and other sucking pests.
- Avoid unnecessary pesticide application.
- Avoid spraying during the hottest part of the day.
- Follow need-based plant protection.

FIELD CHECK

Scout regularly and act according to observed pest/disease pressure.

Succeeding Crop Advisory & State Priorities

AFTER JUTE HARVEST

- Do not leave harvested fields idle unnecessarily.
- Use residual soil moisture for timely establishment of suitable succeeding crops.
- Dry: conserve moisture, minimize unnecessary tillage and irrigate only at critical stages.
- Wet: provide drainage, wait until soil is workable and avoid fertilizer on saturated soil.
- Select crops according to residual moisture, drainage, soil type, irrigation availability and market demand.

State	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
West Bengal	Finish harvest/retting	Protect fibre from rain	Timely rabi establishment
Bihar	Complete retting	Conserve residual moisture	Establish rabi crops
Assam	Drain water/complete harvest	Protect bundles/fibre	Moisture-based planning
Odisha	Harvest/retting	Rainwater conservation	Rabi establishment

OCTOBER 2026 CONTINGENCY RULE

Heavy rain → DRAIN QUICKLY • Dry spell → SAVE EVERY DROP • Mature jute → COMPLETE HARVEST

October 2026: Farmer Action Message

HEAVY RAIN

Drain quickly

DRY SPELL

Save every drop

MATURE JUTE

Complete harvest

LOW RETTING WATER

Use ribbon / CRIJAF SONA retting

FIBRE READY

Wash and dry promptly

AFTER HARVEST

Establish a suitable succeeding crop

RESIDUAL MOISTURE

Use efficiently

Conceptualized & published by:
Director, ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore, West Bengal

Acknowledgement:

The Institute acknowledges the contribution of the Chairman and Members of the Committee of Agro-advisory Services.

General guidance: Follow local weather bulletins and site-specific recommendations from extension personnel.