

**SPECIAL AGRO-ADVISORY FOR JUTE FARMERS
DURING EL NIÑO, 2026 (JULY–AUGUST)**

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EL NIÑO EFFECT (July-August, 2026)

During an **El Niño year**, the southwest monsoon often becomes weak and erratic, leading to:

- Delayed onset of monsoon
- Long dry spells between rainfall events
- Higher day temperatures
- Reduced soil moisture
- Water scarcity for retting

These conditions can **reduce jute fibre yield by 15–40% and adversely affect fibre quality** if timely interventions are not adopted.

Expected Weather conditions during El Niño (July-August, 2026)

Parameter	Likely Condition during
Rainfall	Below normal and uneven distribution
Temperature	1–3°C higher than normal
Relative Humidity	Lower during dry spells
Soil Moisture	Rapid depletion
Water Availability for Retting	Reduced

CROP STAGE-WISE ADVISORY FOR JUTE

A. Vegetative Growth Stage (July)

Possible Problems: Mid-season drought; Reduced plant height; Nutrient deficiency; Increased weed competition

Recommendations

- ❖ Conserve moisture through intercultural operations. Apply top dressing nitrogen after rainfall. Spray 2% urea solution if crop shows yellowing symptoms. Harvest rainwater in farm ponds and field channels. Remove weeds before its flowering.
- ❖ Foliar spray during moisture stress -2% Urea Solution (Urea = 20 g/litre water): Spray during morning or evening hours. **Benefits:** Improves crop vigour, maintains greenness, enhances fibre development

B. Fibre Development Stage (August)

Possible Problems: High temperature stress, reduced fibre formation, premature leaf shedding

Recommendation

- ❖ Provide life-saving irrigation wherever possible. Monitor pest incidence regularly. Maintain field sanitation. Avoid moisture stress during rapid stem elongation.

WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY

Construction of in situ pond

- Keeping in view the erratic distribution of rainfall, non-availability of community tank, declined availability of water resources, high cost of cultivation and labour and dryness of rivers, ponds/canals, farmers face problems of proper retting of jute and mesta. In-situ pond can be constructed to harvest the rain water for irrigation as well as retting of jute and mesta

Dimension of the Pond developed for water harvesting.

- The pond dimension of 40 ft × 30 ft × 5 ft was sufficient for irrigation and retting of jute harvested from half acre of land at a time.
- Provision should be made for appropriate lining of water harvesting pond with LDPE agri-film of 150-300 microns to minimize the seepage and percolation loss.
- Jute harvested from one acre can be facilitated for retting in two cycles. Three jaks should be prepared at a time and each jak should consist of three layers. Gap of 20-30 cm from jak to the soil bottom and 20-30 cm water above the jak should be maintained.
- The pond bund should have sufficient width (1.5-1.8 m) to grow other crops like papaya and banana for extra earning



SPECIAL RETTING ADVISORY

Impact of El Niño on Retting: Low rainfall may reduce pond water depth resulting in delayed retting, dark fibre, poor fibre strength, reduced market price. To overcome these following retting practices can be **recommended**

- ❖ **Ribbon Retting:** Requires 60–70% less water, produces brighter fibre, faster retting, suitable during drought years
- ❖ **Microbial-Assisted Retting:** Use microbial retting formulations (CRIJAF Sona) which shortens retting period by 8–10 days; improves fibre colour; enhances fibre strength and reduces water requirement
- ❖ **Community Retting Structures:** Farmers are advised to: Renovate village ponds before retting season; Use community retting tanks; Store rainwater for retting purposes.



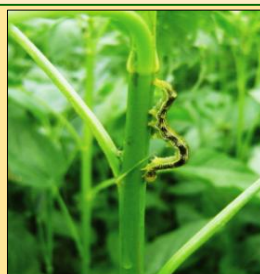
Additional benefit of harvested water in in situ tank

1. Dyke height horticulture (papaya, banana, seasonal vegetables (Profit of about Rs. 10,000-12,000/- per tank **2.** Rearing of air breathing fish like telapia, magur and singhi, 50-60 kg **3.** Apiaries (Profit from honey around Rs. 7000/- per tank) and also honey bees will help in pollination **4.** Mushroom cultivation and vermicomposting. **5.** Approximately 50 nos. ducks can be reared in the pond which result in additional income of Rs. 5000 /-. **6.** After retting, the water can be utilized for providing supplement irrigation to crops in jute based cropping sequence resulting additional income of Rs 4000/acre.

Thus, by losing jute of Rs. 1000 to 1200 after construction of permanent tank in the field, farmers can earn about Rs. 30,000/- in that area from multiple farming with saving of transport cost another about Rs. 5000/- This technology will also be helpful in reducing negative impacts from extreme weather events like drought, cyclone, flood etc.

PEST AND DISEASE ADVISORY

- **Hairy caterpillar** infestation starts when the temperature and relative humidity raises may occurs after rainfall. Eggs and young larvae are seen in cluster on the leaf surface. The pest spreads quickly and damage the leaves. Early monitoring to spot early infestation is required. Remove the egg masses and newly emerged larvae in bunch. Spray Lambda Cyhalothrin 5EC@ 1ml/lit or Indoxacarb 14.5 SC@ 1.0 ml/litre in extreme cases.
- **Semilooper** causes foliar damage in almost all the jute growing tracts. Slender, greenish larvae with light yellow head, narrow dark green dorsal lines are easily noticed when they crawl by producing a loop in the middle. The crop is most susceptible at 50-80 DAS. Damage starts in all cases from unopened leaves in upper part of the plant which represent the most susceptible portion. Damage is restricted to 9 fully opened leaves of the crop. The edges of the tender leaves are eaten, serrated, diagonal cuts occurs in apical leaves. Sometimes damaged stem induce branching. Whenever the damage by semilooper reaches 15% then any contact insecticide such as Profenophos 50 EC @2 ml/litre, Fenvalerate 20EC @ 1.0 ml/litre or Cypermethrin 25EC @ 0.5 ml/litre may be applied. The insecticidal sprays need to be targeted towards the apical portion of the plant rather than covering the whole plant.
- **Mite** infestation with the symptom of thickening and interveinal crinkling in the terminal young leaves which later turn coppery-brown. Avoid water stress and foliar spray of Fenpyroximate 5 EC @ 1.5 ml/litre or Spiromesifen 240 SC @ 0.7 ml/litre or Propargite 57 EC @ 2.5 ml / litre alternatively in rotation at 10 days interval if infestation persist beyond 10 days. In case of rain, wait for at least 5-6 days to initiate the Acaricide spray if symptoms initiates/persists



Hairy caterpillar infestation with high temperature and humidity after rainfall. The pest spreads very quickly. Monitor early infestation and remove the egg masses and newly emerged larvae in bunch. Spray lambda cyhalothrin 5EC@ 1ml/lit or indoxacarb 14,5 SC@ 1.0 ml/litre in extreme cases.

If damage by semilooper reaches 15% then contact insecticide such as Profenophos 50 EC @2 ml/litre, Fenvalerate 20EC @ 1.0 ml/litre or Cypermethrin 25EC @ 0.5 ml/litre may be applied. The insecticidal sprays need to be targeted towards the apical portion of the plant rather than covering the whole plant.



Avoid water stress, maintain soil moisture and foliar spray of Fenpyroximate 5 EC @ 1.5 ml/litre or Spiromesifen 240 SC @ 0.7 ml/litre or Propargite 57 EC @ 2.5 ml / litre alternatively in rotation at 10 days interval