

# Farmers fret over rainfall warning for next 3 days

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Bhubaneswar: The weatherman's prediction of rainfall at many places over the state for the next three days under the influence of a depression in the Bay of Bengal has furrowed the brows of paddy farmers.

"Paddy in some of our fields are almost ready for harvest. The rain alert came on Tuesday and it would be difficult to harvest paddy within a short notice. If rain continues for a few days, farmers in our area as well as rest of state would sustain heavy losses," said Ranjan Biswal, a farmer of Janla village in Khurda. He has cultivated paddy over two acres of land.

"It would be difficult for me to repay my loan if rain causes damages paddy and vegetables grown in my field," said Abdul Sattar, a small farmer of Pipili village in Puri district.

Niranjan Mohanty of Balipada near Berhampur in Ganjam district said he had cut a portion of his paddy crop but stopped the work due to fear of rain.

"As the Ganjam district administration has not started paddy procurement yet, the farmers who have already cut their produce will be facing a tough time to keep it safe," said Simamchal Nahak, secretary, Rushikulya Rait Mahasabha, a farmer outfit.

The IMD forecast on Wednesday said the low-pressure system intensified into a depression and was lying about 650 km from Paradip. It would further intensify into a deep depression on Thursday. Yellow warning of heavy rain was issued for Thursday for six districts — Puri, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak and Balasore. Nabarangpur recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 11.5 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. The city recorded a minimum of 19.5C, 0.1 degrees above normal.

(With inputs from Berhampur)