

## Editor comments

1. The language has been pointed as a weakness of the paper and I strongly urge the authors to perform a thorough spell and grammar check before it can be published. If this is not carried out I will not be able to suggest the paper for publication.

2. Please provide references to statements on for example farmers committing suicide.

3. P2, L3. Please change “reason” to “driver”

4. You use the term lead time incorrectly. You speak of “7, 15, 30 and 45 days lead times”, but you mean accumulation periods or accumulation times. Lead time is the time at which a forecast is compared with observations, the day in which it verifies. If you accumulate a forecast from day 1 to 7 you are get the accumulated forecast for day 7, which strictly speaking is not the same as the lead time of 7 days. I would suggest that you change lead time to accumulation period or accumulation time throughout the manuscript.

5. Generally, sentences like:

*“Fig. 4 shows spatial pattern of CSI averaged overall forecast dates for precipitation, daily mean temperature, runoff, and soil moisture for 45 day lead time.”* and

*“Figure 5 shows anomalies of total runoff and root-zone soil moisture predicted on 15th July 2009 for 45 day lead time using the VIC model with the bias corrected IITM-ensemble forecast, which were compared against the observed anomalies (the VIC model was forced with the observed data)”*

are superfluous and should be deleted. This information should be fully contained in the figure caption.