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India must strengthen the microbial disease monitoring network

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India depends on the monsoon rains to sustain agriculture productivity since millions of farmers rely on it for their survival. The monsoon rains also triggers serious outbreak of microbial diseases. The weather reports nowadays can precisely predict the rainfall patterns ahead and the government agencies should be prepared well in advance to counter microbial outbreaks immediately after heavy rains and floods. India needs to add more sophisticated laboratories in villages to contain microbial disease outbreaks on the grassroots level. In 2004, India started the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program and nearly 90% districts were

regularly providing status reports. But, what is required now is to increase the village and block-level coverage and then only the whole country can be brought under systematic surveillance. The government of India's 12th Plan (2012–17) budget has allocated USD 98 million for disease surveillance work. But, more funds are needed to cover the entire nation that has a population of over 1.3 billion people. Then, the microbial surveillance network including the provision of latest rapid diagnostic tools will become easier for the healthcare sector.

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