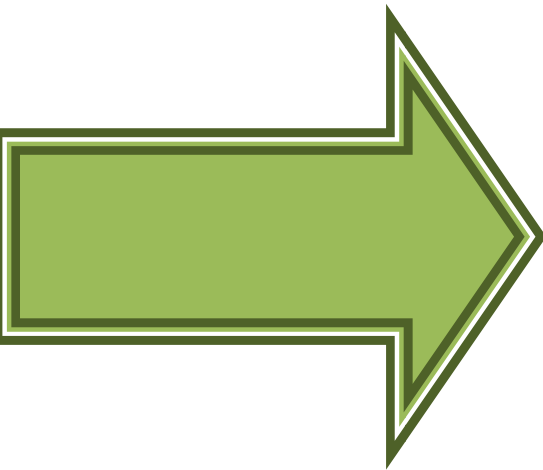


Vol.5, ISSUE III, 2020

AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK

March, 2020



**PLANNING & RESEARCH DIVISION,
ZARAI TARAQIATI BANK LIMITED,
HEAD OFFICE, ISLAMABAD.**

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Executive Summary | 02 |
| Current Crop Situation..... | 03 |
| Wheat | 03 |
| Cotton | 03 |
| Sugarcane | 06 |
| Horticulture..... | 07 |
| Crop Calendar..... | 07 |
| Weather Situation | 13 |
| Monthly Rainfall (mm)..... | 14 |
| Drought Outlook | 16 |
| Irrigation Water Supply Situation | 17 |
| Fertilizer Offtake Situation | 18 |
| Imports & Exports Situation | 18 |
| News & Trends..... | 20 |
| Agriculture Advisory for Farmers | 23 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sowing of Rabi crops in Pakistan stretch from mid September to end of February. The growth of Rabi crops, especially wheat crop is satisfactory. Sowing of Lentil crop has been completed and recent rains may improve the crop early growth. Harvesting/crushing of sugarcane crop is in full swing. A severe attack of mealybug is being witnessed on cotton crop in south Punjab districts. Few districts of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan are also under attack of Locusts.

Wheat crop during the month was at jointing / booting stages depending upon the sowing time. The crop condition is generally good. Timely and widespread rain spells from October to January compensated the stressed surface irrigation water supplies and supplemented crop water requirements. Some parts of lower Sindh, however, showed stressed crop situation due to irrigation water shortage continued from start of the Rabi season. Agro-met conditions during March will define the final wheat crop productivity

In international market cotton prices during January, 2020 showed a decrease of 4.1 percent than January, 2019. Average cotton price during January 2020 was around 79.21 cents per lb against the average price of 82.60 cents during the same period of last year. In local market, average ex-gin cotton price during January 2020 was higher by about 3.3 percent compared to January 2019. Approximate average ex-gin cotton price per 40 kg during January 2020 was Rs. 9648 against Rs. 9339 per 40 kg during January 2019, showing an increase of Rs. 309.

Sugarcane harvesting in the country got momentum during January to February and about 35-45 percent sugarcane area has been harvested. During 2019-20 sugarcane crop size is less compared to last year due to decrease in area sown, high temperatures and rains particularly during September / October which affected sugarcane production.

Seed cotton (Phutti) equivalent to 8.565 million or 8,565,376 bales has reached ginneries across Pakistan till March 1, registering 20.26 per cent shortfall compared to corresponding period of last year.

During March 2020, near normal rainfall is expected over the country with slightly above normal over northern half of the country. Surface temperature will gradually increase during March and is expected to remain 1-2 degree above normal over plain areas of the country. However normal temperature is expected over mountainous region of the country

The global SST forecast shows mainly neutral ENSO conditions (-0.5 to 0.5) in the Nino 3.4 SST index for Mar-May, 2020. Above average SST is also predicted for much of the tropical North Atlantic during the Forecast Season. Positive but near neutral Indian Ocean Dipole is forecasted by Global Climate Models. The MJO is likely to remain in active phase in Maritime Continent and Western Pacific Ocean during the 1st half of March 2020

CURRENT CROP SITUATION

1. Wheat

Wheat crop was at jointing / booting stages during February depending upon sowing time. Wheat crop condition is generally good and no serious stress condition is observed in barani and irrigated areas of the country. Better weather conditions and availability of crop inputs like irrigation, fertilizers etc. may help to have good wheat harvest at the end of season. Satellite based analytics are also indicative of better crop situation as compared to last year. A serious threat is currently prevailing from presence of locust in Sindh and some parts of Punjab for this wheat crop. The threat may become more severe with increase in temperature during February / March due to locust breeding. Government is making efforts to keep this threat under control. Any slackness to control the locust, however, can create an alarming situation to our national food security.

Wheat stocks situation is not satisfactory in the country. During January, flour prices suddenly jumped by 10 to 20 rupees per kg due to short supplies. Resultantly Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet (ECC) allowed 0.3 million tons of duty free wheat import to keep flour prices stable. Moreover, government is also working to double wheat procurement targets to have sufficient wheat stocks for coming year. This will help farmers to sell their wheat at the notified government support price of Rs. 1365 per 40 kg.

Wheat stocks at the start of food year 1st May, 2019 were 3.779 million tons. Current wheat stock situation including new wheat procurement in the country is given below:

Government estimated wheat availability of 28.973 million tons including production estimate of 25.194 million tons and leftover stocks of 3.779 million tons during 2019. National requirement of wheat was estimated at 26.91 million tons having sufficient wheat to fulfill the need of population. Increase in wheat flour prices, however indicating demand supply gap that require government attention to keep wheat flour prices under control.

2. Cotton

Seed cotton (Phutti) equivalent to 8.565 million or 8,565,376 bales has reached ginneries across Pakistan till March 1, registering 20.26 per cent shortfall compared to corresponding period of last year

This year, cotton production remained discouraging not only for growers but also for textile sectors. High temperatures during September resulted in insect pest pressure particularly of whitefly limiting overall crop size to lowest of the decade. Cotton Crop Assessment Committee in its second estimation meeting held on 19 December, 2019, assessed total production of 9.451 million bales during 2019-20.

According to PCGA report of 1st February 2020, cotton arrivals in the ginning factories of Pakistan showed a decrease of around 19.98 percent as compared to the same period of last year. Cotton arrivals remained down by 22.39 and 16.21 percent in Punjab and Sindh, respectively. The details of the cotton arrivals are given below:

| Province | 2019 | 2018 | Difference | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | (000) Bales | | Percent | |
| Punjab | 5,014,203 | 6,461,080 | -1,446,877 | -22.39 |
| Sindh | 3,472,901 | 4,144,666 | -671,765 | -16.21 |
| Total | 8,487,104 | 10,605,746 | -2,118,642 | -19.98 |

COTTON MARKET REPORT as on 10.03.2020

| Market | Current Prices | Prices on same date last year ¹ |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| I. Cot look Index (Cents/lb) (09.03.2020) 'A' Index | 72.15 | 81.25 |
| II. New York Cotton Market Contract No. 2 (cents/lb) (09.03.2020) 'May' 2020 Contract 'July' 2020 Contract | 62.21 61.91 | N.Q |
| III. China Cotton Index (09.03.2020) Yuan/M. Ton (Cents/lb.) | 12753 83.50 | N.Q |
| IV. Indian Cotton Index (09.03.2020) Shankar-6 Rs. Per Candy (Equivalent Cents/lb.) | 38,800 66.82 | - |
| V. Karachi Cotton Association Ex-gin Price (09.03.2020) Rs. per 40kgs. Rs. per maund (Equivalent Cents/lb.) | 9,645 9,000 70.68 | 9,217 8,600 75.14 |

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET CLOSING DELIVERY CONTRACT NO. 2 AS ON 09.03. 2020

| Contract | Open | High | Low | Previous | Close | Change |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|----------|-------|--------|
| May-20 | 62.00 | 62.50 | 60.50 | 62.79 | 61.21 | -1.58 |
| July-20 | 62.98 | 63.11 | 61.17 | 63.51 | 61.91 | -1.60 |
| Oct-20 | - | - | - | 64.01 | 62.16 | -1.85 |
| Dec-20 | 63.05 | 63.34 | 61.40 | 63.81 | 62.11 | -1.70 |
| Mar-21 | 64.01 | 64.13 | 62.31 | - | 62.99 | -1.62 |

TARGETS FOR AREA AND PRODUCTION OF COTTON CROP 2019-20

| S. No | Province | Area (Million Hectares) | Production (Million bales) |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Punjab | 2.145 | 7.90 |
| 2. | Sindh | 0.640 | 4.60 |
| 3. | Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | 0.010 | 0.02 |
| 4. | Baluchistan | 0.100 | 0.20 |
| Total of Pakistan | | 2.895 | 12.72 |

Source: Provincial Agriculture Departments.

PROVINCE-WISE SOWING POSITION OF COTTON CROP DURING 2019-20 SEASON (Million Hectares)

| Province | Target 2019-20 | Area Sown | | % Change Over | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | 2019-20 | 2018-19 | Target | Last Year |
| Punjab | 2.145 | 1.860 | 1.888 | 86.7% | -1.5 |
| Sindh | 0.640 | 0.615 | 0.448 | 96.0% | +37.3 |
| Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | 0.010 | 0.00010 | 0.00016 | 1.0% | -37.5 |
| Balochistan | 0.100 | 0.038 | 0.037 | 38.0% | +2.7 |
| Total | 2.895 | 2.513 | 2.373 | 86.8% | +5.9 |

Source: Provincial Agriculture Departments.

ESTIMATED COTTON CROP VOLUME 2019-20 SEASON

(Bales = 170 Kg)

| Province | Expected Production (million bales) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Punjab | 6.671 |
| Sindh | 2.68 |
| Baluchistan & Khyber PakhtunKhwa | 0.098 |
| Pakistan | 9.449 |

Source: Second Cotton Crop Assessment Committee held on 19.12.2019.

SEED COTTON ARRIVALS AS ON 1ST MARCH, 2020

(Bales)

| Heads | 2019-20 (Season) | | | 2018-19 (Season) | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| | Punjab | Sindh | Total | Punjab | Sindh | Total |
| Arrivals | 5,091,397 | 3,473,979 | 8,565,376 | 6,592,318 | 4,149,063 | 10,741,381 |
| Sales to Exporters | 0 | 58,666 | 58,666 | 3,300 | 99,030 | 102,330 |
| Sales to Textile Mills | 4,674,474 | 3,254,965 | 7,929,439 | 5,684,936 | 3,748,894 | 9,433,830 |
| Sales to T.C.P | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unsold Stock | 406,465 | 158,097 | 564,562 | 884,961 | 300,422 | 1,185,383 |
| Un-ginned Stock | 10,458 | 2,251 | 12,709 | 19,121 | 717 | 19,838 |

Source: Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association.

SEED COTTON, RAW COTTON, COTTON SEED AND COTTON SEED CAKE PRICES CROP 2019-20

| Market | Seed Cotton | Raw Cotton (Lint) | Cotton Seed | Cotton Seed Cake |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | (Rs. Per 40 Kgs) | | | |
| | 09.03.2020 | 09.03.2020 | 09.03.2020 | 09.03.2020 |
| Rahim Yar Khan | 3800-4000 | 9431 | 1661 | 1822 |
| Bahawalpur | 3000-4300 | 9324 | 1929 | 1849 |
| Burewala* | 2500-3500 | 9270 | 1902 | 2054 |
| Ghotki | - | 9484 | - | 1875 |
| Sukkur | 3600-3800 | 8734 | 1688 | 1688 |
| Khairpur | - | 8681 | - | 1795 |

Source: Market Report.

Note: *shows market prices, while others are rates of ginning factories.

PROVISIONAL STATEMENT OF EXPORT AND IMPORT OF COTTON

(Value= Million Rs)

| Exports | | | | | | Imports | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|----------|--------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|----------|--------|
| July18-June,2019 | | July17-June,2018 | | % change | | July18-June, 2019 | | July17-June, 2018 | | % change | |
| Qty Bales | Value | Qty Bales | Value | Qty | Value | Qty Bales | Value | Qty Bales | Value | Qty | Value |
| 74,500 | 2,708 | 207,424 | 6,184 | -64.08 | -56.21 | 2,439,171 | 107,874 | 3,521,453 | 122,009 | -30.73 | -11.59 |

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

PROVISIONAL STATEMENT OF EXPORT AND IMPORT OF COTTON (Value= MillionRs)

| Exports | | | | | | Imports | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|----------|-------|
| July,19 - Jan, 2020 | | July,18 - Jan,2019 | | % change | | July,19- Jan,2020 | | July,18- Jan,2019 | | % change | |
| Qty Bales | Value | Qty Bales | Value | Qty | Value | Qty Bales | Value | Qty Bales | Value | Qty | Value |
| 70,118 | 2,496 | 52,412 | 1,849 | 33.78 | 34.99 | 689,818 | 30,344 | 439,171 | 17,970 | 57.07 | 68.86 |

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

COTTON BALANCE SHEET DURING 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 AND 2018-19 (Bale= 170kg)

| Sr. No. | Position | 2015-16 | | 2016-17 | | 2017-18 | | 2018-19* | |
|---------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | '000' Bales | '000' M/Tons | '000' Bales | '000' M/Tons | '000' Bales | '000' M/Tons | '000' Bales | '000' M/Tons |
| 1. | Carryover | 550 | 93 | 0 | 0 | 439 | 75 | 949 | 162 |
| 2. | Production | 9917 | 1686 | 10670 | 1814 | 11945 | 2031 | 9,860 | 1676 |
| 3. | Imports | 2453 | 417 | 2976 | 506 | 3521 | 599 | 2439 | 415 |
| | Total | 12920 | 2196 | 13646 | 2320 | 15905 | 2705 | 13248 | 2253 |
| 4. | Mill Consumption | 12633 | 2147 | 13060 | 2220 | 14749 | 2508 | 12085 | 2055 |
| 5. | Exports | 287 | 49 | 147 | 25 | 207 | 35 | 75 | 13 |
| 6. | End Season Stocks | 0 | 0 | 439 | 75 | 949 | 162 | 1088 | 185 |
| | Total | 12920 | 2196 | 13646 | 2320 | 15905 | 2705 | 13248 | 2253 |

Source: i) Textile Commissioners Organization (Mill Consumption for 2017-18(August to June) and for 2018- 2019 (August to April,2019).

ii) Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. (Imports &Exports).

iii) Provincial Crop Reporting Service Department and D.G Agriculture (Extension) Department.(Production)

3. Sugarcane

Sugarcane harvesting in the country got momentum during February and about 35-45 percent sugarcane area has been harvested. Sugarcane area sown during this season is not only less than last year and the fixed target but also lowest among the last five years. High temperatures and rains particularly during September / October have also affected sugarcane production, further reducing the size of crop during this year. Resultantly growers have received higher sugarcane prices (Rs. 230 to 260 per 40 Kg) than notified support price (Rs. 190 and 192 per 40 kg in Punjab and Sindh, respectively) in the general market without any hue and cry situation. This high sugarcane price and short supply has resulted in increased sugar price for the general public in the country. Sugar prices in the international market showed a gradual increase from the start of the January 2020. Sugar price during January 2020 was approximately 11 percent higher compared to January 2019. Average sugar price during January 2020 was 387.7 \$ per ton against the average sugar price of 348.7 \$ per ton during January 2019, showing an increase of 39 \$ per ton. Sugar prices in the local market also remained higher during January 2020 as compared to January 2019. Average sugar price during January 2020 was around Rs. 7404 per 100 kg as against the average sugar price of Rs. 5645 per 100 kg showing an increase of around Rs. 1759 per 40 kg (approx. 31 percent higher). Graphs showing daily white sugar price index in the International market (International Sugar Organization) and daily average sugar price in the local market (Akbari Mandi) are given below:



Source: International Sugar Organization



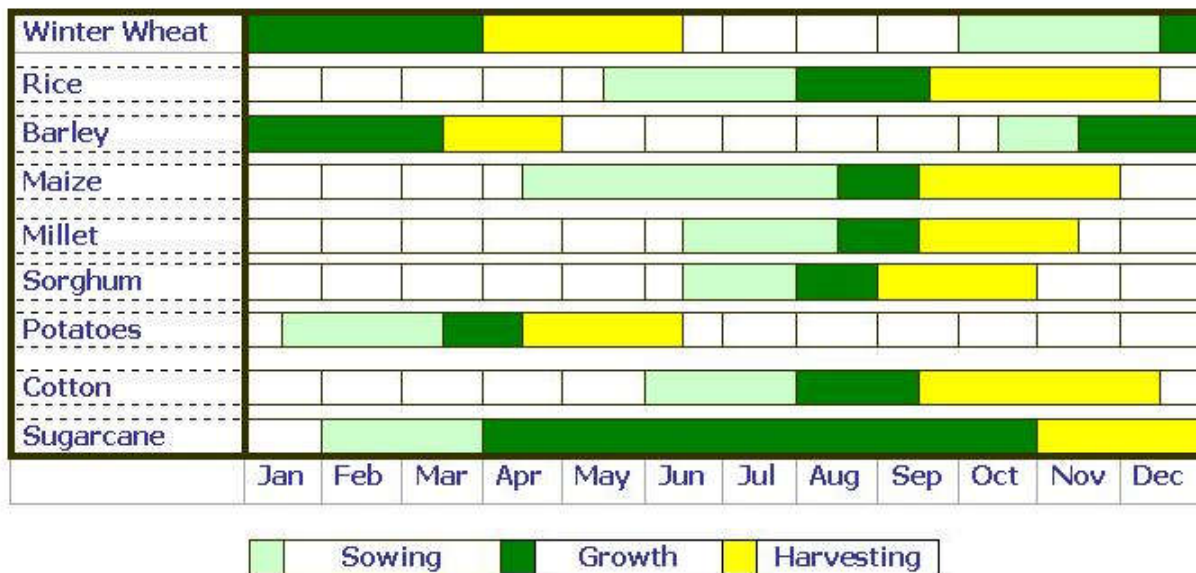
Source: Akbari Mandi

4. Horticulture

- Sowing/land preparation for summer vegetables is in progress in Punjab
- In Sindh, Castor oil is growing satisfactory and its first picking is in progress.
- Mangoes are at flowering stage The growth of other seasonal fruits like guava, banana, Cheeko is in good condition.
- Growth of fruit orchards and that of seasonal vegetables is satisfactory in Balochistan and harvesting/picking is in progress.
- The growth of other seasonal fruits in Sindh like guava, banana, Cheeko is in good condition.

CROP CALENDER

Crop Calendar of Pakistan





PUNJAB

| GENERAL CROPS | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Wheat | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cotton | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rice | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sugarcane | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tobacco | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gram | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunflower | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sorghum | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rape seed | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VEGETABLES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potato | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomato | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabbage | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cauliflower | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carrot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onion | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Melon | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cucumber | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water-melon | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Squash | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bitter Gold | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chillies | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brinjal | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lady's finger | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORCHARDS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mango | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Citrus | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apple | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grapes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strawberry | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peaches | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banana | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pomegranate | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Guava | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SINDH

| GENERAL CROPS | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Wheat | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cotton | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rice | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sugarcane | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tobacco | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gram | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunflower | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sorghum | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rape seed | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VEGETABLES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potato | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomato | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabbage | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cauliflower | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carrot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onion | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Melon | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cucumber | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water-melon | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Squash | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bitter Gold | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chillies | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brinjal | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ladies finger | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORCHARDS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mango | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Citrus | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banana | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pomegranate | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Guava | | | | | | | | | | | | |



BALUCHISTAN

| GENERAL CROPS | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Wheat | Yellow | | | | | | | | | | | Yellow |
| Cotton | | | | | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | | | |
| Rice | | | | | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | | | |
| Sugarcane | | | Brown | Brown | Brown | | | | | | | |
| Tobacco | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gram | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunflower | | | Brown | Brown | Brown | | | | | | | |
| Sorghum | | | Blue | Blue | Blue | | | | | | | |
| Rape seed | Pink | Pink | | | | | | | | | | |
| VEGETABLES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potato | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomato | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | | Red | Red |
| Cabbage | | | | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | | | |
| Cauliflower | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carrot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peas | | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue |
| Onion | | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Melon | | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple |
| Cucumber | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue |
| Water-melon | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue |
| Squash | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown |
| Bitter Gold | | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple |
| Chillies | | | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple |
| Brinjal | | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green |
| Ladies finger | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red |
| ORCHARDS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mango | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Citrus | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apple | | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown |
| Grapes | | | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue |
| Strawberry | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peaches | | | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple |
| Banana | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pomegranate | | | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |
| Guawa | | | | | | | | | | | | |

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

| GENERAL CROPS | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Wheat | Yellow | | | | | | | | | | | Yellow |
| Cotton | | | | | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | | | |
| Rice | | | | | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | | | |
| Sugarcane | | | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple |
| Tobacco | | | Brown | Brown | Brown | | | | | | | |
| Corn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gram | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue |
| Sunflower | | | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown |
| Mong | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sorghum | | | Blue | Blue | Blue | | | | | | | |
| Rape seed | Pink | Pink | | | | | | | | | | |
| VEGETABLES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potato | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomato | | | | | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red |
| Cabbage | | | | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green |
| Cauliflower | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carrot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peas | | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue |
| Onion | | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Melon | | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple |
| Cucumber | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue |
| Water-melon | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue | Dark Blue |
| Squash | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown |
| Bitter Gold | | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple | Purple |
| Chillies | | | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple | Dark Purple |
| Brinjal | | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green | Light Green |
| Ladies finger | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red |
| ORCHARDS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mango | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Citrus | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apple | | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown | Brown |
| Grapes | | | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue | Light Blue |
| Strawberry | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peaches | | | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple | Light Purple |
| Banana | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pomegranate | | | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |
| Guawa | | | | | | | | | | | | |

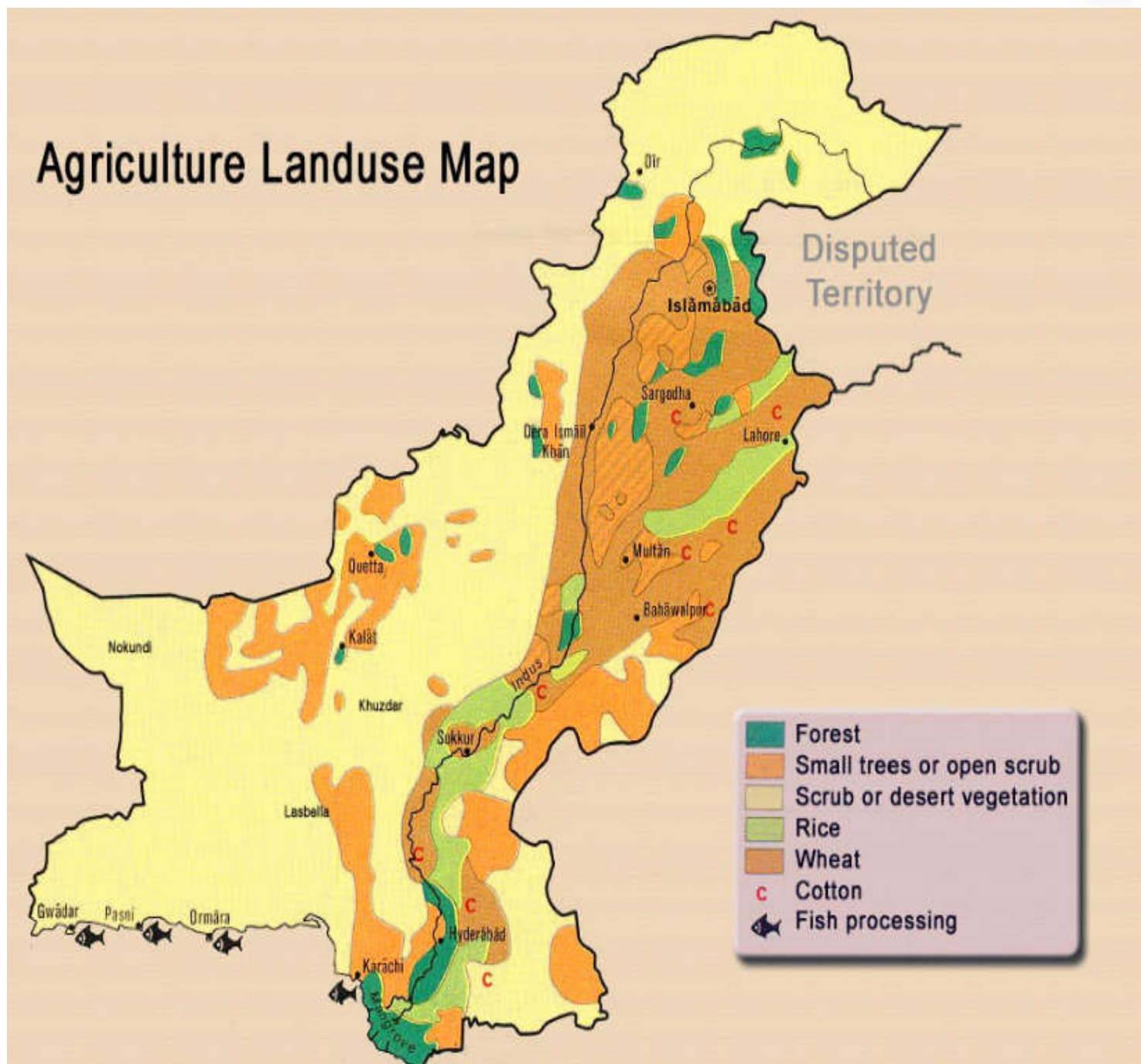
VEGETABLE CROP CALENDER

| Crop name(alphabetically) | Nursery time | Sowing time | Reaping time |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| Barley | | 1 st Oc. To 30 th Nov. | 1 st April to 30 th June |
| Berseem | | 1 st Sep. to 31 st Oct. | 1 February to April 30 |
| Brinjal | whole July | whole August | 1 st Nov. to 31 st Dec. |
| Corn (common) | | 1 st June to 31 st July | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. |
| Corn (spring) | | Whole February | 1 st June to 31 st July |
| Cotton | | 1 st April to 31 st May | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. |
| Cucumber | | 1 st May to 30 th June | 1 st Aug. to 3 rd Sep. |
| Flower cabbage, cabbage | | 1 st Sep. to 31 st Oct. | 1 st Dec. to 28 th Feb. |
| Garlic | | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. | 1 st April to 31 st May |
| Gram | | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. | whole April |
| Guwara | | 1 st June to 31 st July | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. |
| Lucson | | 1 st Sep. to 31 st Oct. | 1 st Feb. to 30 th April |
| Masoor | | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. | whole April |
| Mong, mash | | whole July | whole October |
| Oats | | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. | 1 st Feb. to 31 st March |
| Okra | | 1 st April to 30 th June | 1 st July to 30 th Sep. |
| Onion | 1 st July to 30 th Oct. | 1 st Dec. to 31 st Jan. | 1 st April to 31 st May |
| Peanuts | | 1 st April to 31 st May | whole November |
| Peas | | whole October | 1 st March to 31 st April |
| Pepper | whole February | 1 st March to 31 st April | 1 st Aug. to 31 st Dec. |
| Potato (Kharif) | | 1 st Aug. to 30 th Sep. | whole December |
| Potato (Spring) | | whole Feb. | Full June |
| Rapeseed | | whole October | whole April |
| Rice | 1 st April to 31 st May | Whole June | 1 st Sep. to 31 st Oct. |
| Sorghum (Kharif) | | whole march | 1 st May to 30 th June |
| Sorghum (Zaid Kharif) | | 1 st June to 31 st July | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. |
| Soybean (Kharif) | | whole June | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. |
| Soybean (spring) | | 1 st Feb. to 31 st March | 1 st June to 31 st July |
| Spinach | | 1 st Sep. to 31 st Oct. | 1 st Dec. to 28 th Feb. |
| Sugar beets | | 1 st Oct. to 30 th Nov. | 1 st April to 31 st May |
| Sugarcane (Autumn) | | Whole September | 1 st Sep. to 31 st Oct. |
| Sugarcane (Spring) | | 1 st Feb. to 31 st March | 1 st Nov. to 31 st Dec. |
| Sunflower | | whole February | 1 st June to 31 st July |
| Tobacco | 1 st Jan. to 28 th Feb. | 1 st Feb. to 31 st March | 1 st July to 30 th Sep. |
| Tomato | whole July | 1 st August to 30 th Sep. | 1 st Nov. to 31 st Dec. |
| Tomato (Rabi) | whole October | 1 st Nov. to 31 st Dec. | 1 st April to 31 st May |
| Turnip | | 1 st Sep. to 31 st Oct. | 1 st Dec. to 28 th Feb. |
| Wheat | | 15 th Sep. to 30 th Nov. | 1 st April to 31 st May |

Average Price in PKR of Agriculture Commodities

| Sr. no | Description | Unit | Average Price in PKR | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | | | February,2020 | March, 2020 |
| Average prices of following items registered Increased | | | | |
| 1. | Potatoes | 1 KG | 37.10 | 40.18 |
| 2. | Onions | 1 KG | 68.96 | 73.03 |
| 3. | Eggs Hen (Farm) | 1 Dozen | 90.36 | 94.04 |
| 4. | Sugar Refined | 1 KG | 77.98 | 79.83 |
| 5. | Bananas Local | 1 Dozen | 86.09 | 87.33 |
| 6. | Rice IRRI-6/9 (Sindh/Punjab) | 1 KG | 61.86 | 62.47 |
| 7. | Mutton | 1 KG | 893.57 | 897.48 |
| 8. | Gur | 1 KG | 117.79 | 117.99 |
| 9. | Curd Loose | 1 KG | 108.13 | 108.20 |
| 10. | Vegetable Ghee Dalda | 1 KG | 251.30 | 251.40 |
| 11. | Cooked Daal at average hotel | Per plate | 71045 | 71.47 |
| Average prices of following items registered Decreased | | | | |
| 12. | Beef with Bone | 1 KG | 434.27 | 434.38 |
| 13. | Tomatoes | 1 KG | 39.45 | 35.19 |
| 14. | Garlic | 1 KG | 374.74 | 364.75 |
| 15. | Pulse gram | 1 KG | 151.09 | 147.75 |
| 16. | Wheat Flour bag | 20 KG | 882.95 | 872.71 |
| 17. | Chicken farm broiler (live) | 1 KG | 154.78 | 153.46 |
| 18. | Pulse Masoor (washed) | 1 KG | 142.58 | 141.37 |
| 19. | Pulse mash (washed) | 1 KG | 225.22 | 224.04 |
| 20. | Pulse Moong (washed) | 1 KG | 235.31 | 234.23 |
| 21. | Mutsrad Oil | 1 KG | 221.00 | 220.55 |
| Average prices of following items remained Unchanged | | | | |
| 22. | Rice Basmati Broken | 1 KG | 82.22 | 82.22 |
| 23. | Bread Plain (Small Size) | Small size | 49.07 | 49.07 |
| 24. | Milk Fresh (Un-boiled) | 1 liter | 93.99 | 93.99 |
| 25. | Vegetable ghee Dalda | 2.5 KG Tin | 653.09 | 653.09 |
| 26. | Salt Powdered (Shan/Nationals) | 800 Gram | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| 27. | Chillies Powder National | 200 Gram Packet | 153.55 | 153.55 |
| 28. | Tea Lipton Yellow label | 190Gram Packet | 229.25 | 229.5 |
| 29. | Cookin Oil Dalda | | 1298.22 | 1298.22 |

AGRICULTURE LAND USE OF PAKISTAN



AGRO-METCONDITIONS

During February 2020, 3-4 countrywide rain spells were received with light to moderate rainfall. In Punjab, Murree received rainfall of 116 mm, Islamabad 103 mm, Mangla 99 mm, Gujranwala 94 mm, Mandi Bahau Din 89 mm, Jhelum 83 mm while rest of Punjab received less than 70 mm of rainfall. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa maximum cumulative rainfall was 192 mm in Malam Jabba, Kalam 176 mm, Dir 156 mm, Parachinar 97 mm, Balakot 83 mm while rest of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa received less than 70 mm of rainfall. In Sindh, Sukkur and Larkana received rainfall of 14 mm while rest of Sindh received less than 10 mm of rainfall. In Balochistan, maximum cumulative rainfall was 97 mm in Kalat, Turbat 90 mm, Quetta 83 mm, Jiwani 55 mm, while rest of Balochistan received less than 50 mm of rainfall

WEATHER SITUATION

Synoptic situation

The global SST forecast shows mainly neutral ENSO conditions (-0.5 to 0.5) in the Nino 3.4 SST index for Mar-May, 2020. Above average SST is also predicted for much of the tropical North Atlantic during the Forecast Season. Positive but near neutral Indian Ocean Dipole is forecasted by Global Climate Models. The MJO is likely to remain in active phase in Maritime Continent and Western Pacific Ocean during the 1st half of March 2020. The temperature and precipitation outlooks for March, 2020 are based on dynamical model guidance. On the basis of above discussed global atmospheric and oceanic conditions, following are the main features of weather outlook in Mar 2020:

Precipitation

Above normal precipitation is expected in most parts of Country, whereas upper parts will have significant above normal rainfall.

- Four to five westerly waves are likely to approach during the of March, which may cause light to moderate occasionally heavy rainfall at scattered places of western, central and upper parts of the country.
- Third and fourth weeks are predicted to be wetter as compared to rest of the days of the month.
- Wind/hail storm events are also likely at isolated places of KP, Punjab, North Baluchistan and Kashmir.
- The snowfall is also likely to occur over High Mountain in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Maximum Temperature

Below normal max. Temperature is expected in the western, central and eastern parts of the country, while above normal temperature is expected in the Southeastern Sindh, coastal regions and GB.

- The north to south temperature gradient may cause dust raising winds in central and southern parts of the country.

Province wise Seasonal Outlook:

Punjab:

Slightly Above normal rain fall is predicted in most parts of the province. The rain/thunderstorm activity during 1st, 3rd and 4th weeks of this month is likely with chances of hailstorms/gusty winds at isolated in plain areas of Punjab.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP):

Above normal rain fall is predicted in most parts of the province. Westerly weather system frequency may be more than normal during this month. Westerly associated weather systems may cause cold conditions after mid of the month which will cause decrease in daily average temperatures after weather system.

Balochistan:

Above normal rainfall is expected in the Baluchistan and isolated hail/thunderstorm is forecasted over Northern parts of the Baluchistan. Day temperatures are likely to remain near to below normal.

Sindh:

Above normal rainfall is likely to occur in Sindh. Temperature are likely to remain near normal in upper Sindh, while above normal in lower parts. Dust raising winds are likely to prevail due to north-south temperature gradients.

GB and AJK:

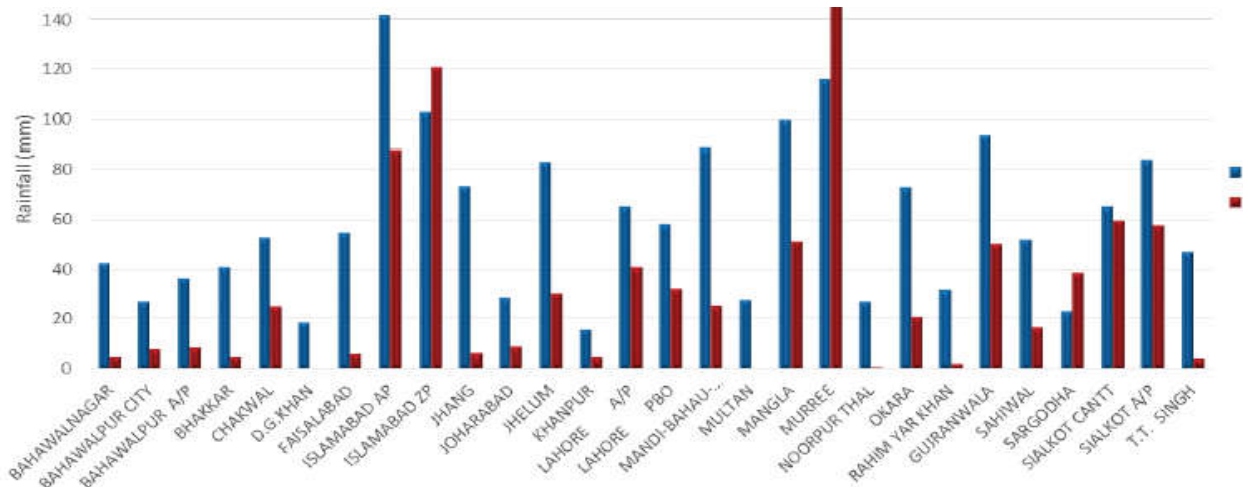
Slightly normal rainfall with isolated to moderate snowfall is expected over GB, while normal to above normal rainfall is expected over AJK and surrounding areas.

Impacts of Weather over different sectors:

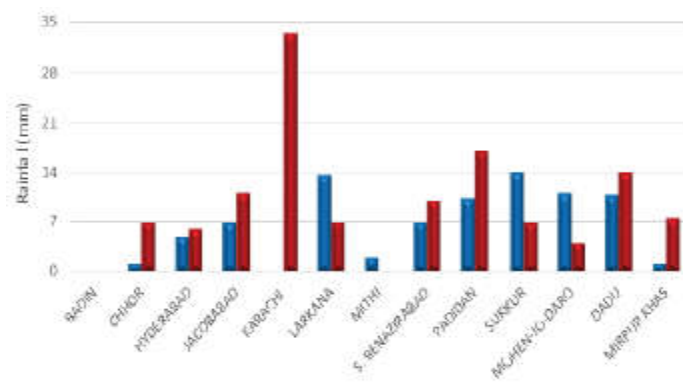
- Current spring season is likely to prolong than normal due to the frequent rainfall spells in the country.
- The snowfall accumulation will be continue over the northern area during the month.
- The above normal rainfall will lead to increase runoff in the western rivers and different nalas KP and Baluchistan.
- Air pollution and fuel combustion induced smog intensity is likely to decrease during the March in the upper Sindh and central parts of Punjab.
- The Pollen count is likely to enhance in Islamabad during mid of the month.
- Due to the north-south temperature gradient there are chances of dust raising winds in the central and southern parts.

Monthly Rainfall (mm): February, 2020

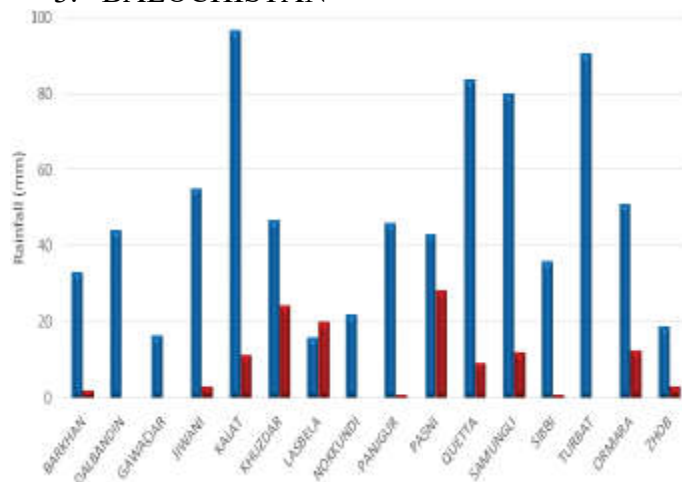
1. PUNJAB



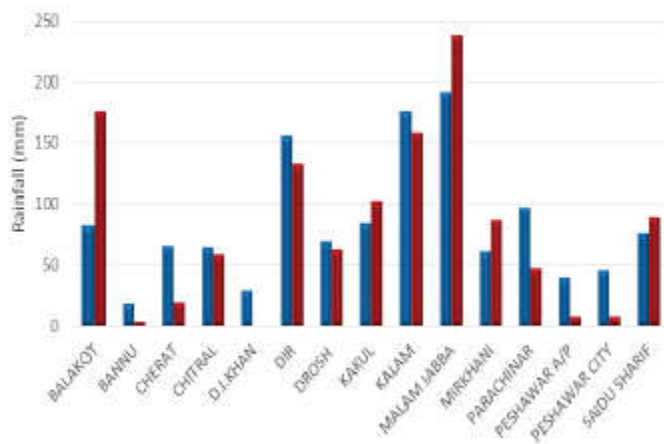
2. SINDH



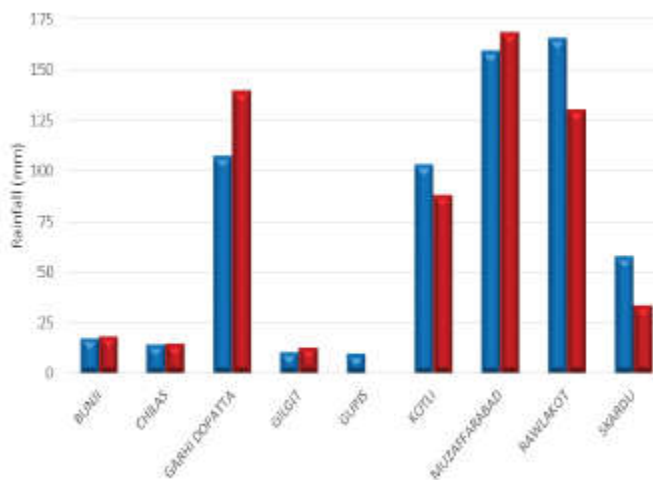
3. BALOCHISTAN



4. KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

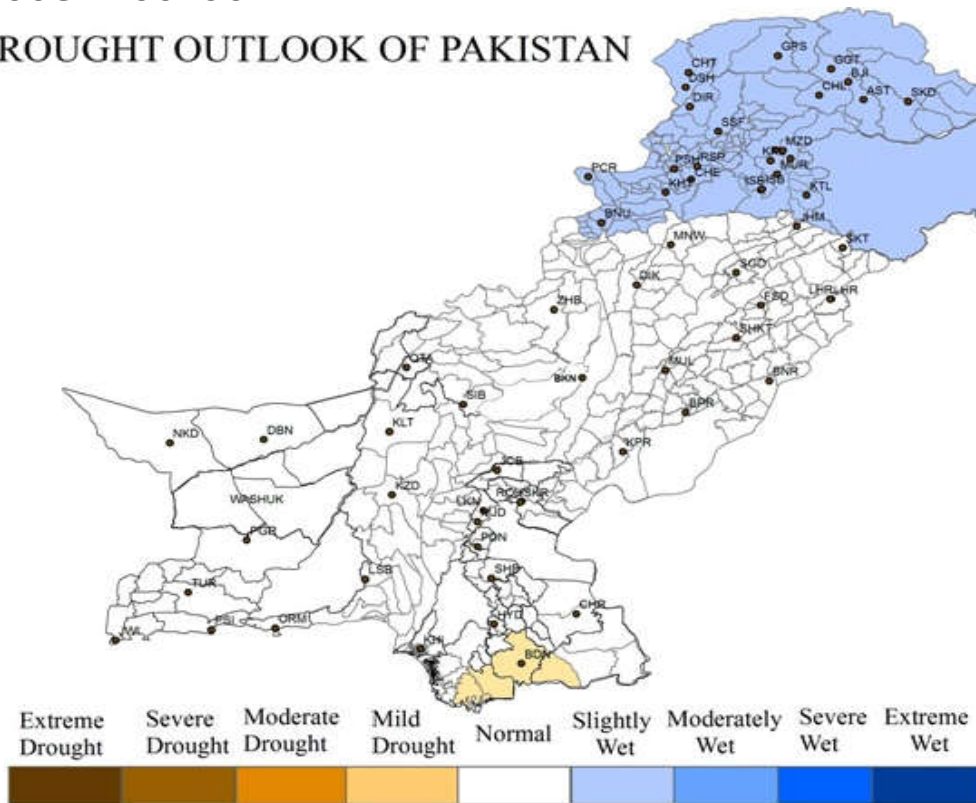


5. GILGIT BALTISTAN & AZAD JUMMU AND KASHMIR



DROUGHT OULOOK

DROUGHT OUTLOOK OF PAKISTAN



During the month of February, 2020 light to moderate rainfall events were reported across Pakistan. March is normally the wettest month of winter season. Above normal precipitation is expected in most parts of the country, whereas upper parts will have significant above normal rainfall. Third and fourth weeks are predicted to be wetter as compared to rest days of the month. Below normal maximum temperature is expected in the western, central and eastern parts of the country, while above normal temperature is expected in the southeastern Sindh, coastal regions and GB. The north to South temperature gradient may cause dust raising winds in central and southern parts of the country.

Rainfall recorded at different places of Punjab and Balochistan during last week of February, 2020

| Sr. No. | Station | Rainfall (mm) | Sr. No. | Station | Rainfall (mm) |
|---------|------------------|---------------|---------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Chaklala Airbase | 102.3 | 11 | Balakot | 62.5 |
| 2 | Murree | 85.1 | 12 | Chattar Kalas | 61.0 |
| 3 | Kalam | 78.5 | 13 | Parachinar | 61.0 |
| 4 | Hajira | 75.0 | 14 | Bandi Abbaspur | 60.4 |
| 5 | Dir | 73.6 | 15 | Malamjabba | 60.0 |
| 6 | Chakothei | 73.5 | 16 | Rawalakot | 55.3 |
| 7 | Haraman | 73.5 | 17 | Kakul | 55.0 |
| 8 | Pattan | 72.0 | 18 | Muzaffarabad Airport | 55.0 |
| 9 | Garhi Dopatta | 64.4 | 19 | Mangla | 52.3 |
| 10 | Jhelum | 63.3 | 20 | Panjera | 52.1 |

INDUS RIVER WATER SITUATION as on 10.03.2020



INDUS RIVER SYSTEM AUTHORITY
GOVT OF PAKISTAN
Daily Water Situation
10.03.2020

INDUS @ TARBELA

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---------|----|
| LEVEL | = | 1443.26 | |
| DEAD LEVEL | = | 1392.00 | |
| MEAN INFLOW | = | 20900 | Cs |
| MEAN OUTFLOW | = | 5000 | Cs |

KALABAGH:

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------|----|
| U/S DISCHARGE | = | 52472 | Cs |
| D/S DISCHARGE | = | 48972 | Cs |
| Thal | = | 3500 | Cs |

TAUNSA:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------|----|
| U/S DISCHARGE | = | 31493 | Cs |
| D/S DISCHARGE | = | 30993 | Cs |
| T-P Link | = | 0 | Cs |
| Muzafarghar Canal | = | 0 | Cs |
| Dera Ghazi Khan Canal | = | 0 | Cs |

SUKKUR:

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------|----|
| U/S DISCHARGE | = | 34300 | Cs |
| D/S DISCHARGE | = | 11850 | Cs |
| * Canal W/dls | = | 20850 | Cs |

JHELUM @ MANGLA:

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---------|----|
| LEVEL | = | 1169.85 | |
| DEAD LEVEL | = | 1050.00 | |
| MEAN INFLOW | = | 32649 | Cs |
| MEAN OUTFLOW | = | 7950 | Cs |

PANJNAD

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------|----|
| U/S DISCHARGE | = | 22960 | Cs |
| D/S DISCHARGE | = | 22460 | Cs |
| *Includes Balochistan Canals | | | |

KABUL @ NOWSHERA

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-------|--|
| MEAN DISCHARGE | = | 21100 | |
|----------------|---|-------|--|

CHASHIMA:

| | | | |
|--------------|---|--------|----|
| LEVEL | = | 648.00 | |
| DEAD LEVEL | = | 638.15 | |
| MEAN INFLOW | = | 44387 | Cs |
| MEAN OUTFLOW | = | 27904 | Cs |
| C-J Link | = | 0 | Cs |
| CRBC | = | 2000 | Cs |

GUDDU:

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------|----|
| U/S DISCHARGE | = | 44432 | Cs |
| D/S DISCHARGE | = | 39364 | Cs |
| * Canal W/dls | = | 5068 | Cs |

KOTRI:

| | | | |
|---------------|---|------|----|
| U/S DISCHARGE | = | 4185 | Cs |
| D/S DISCHARGE | = | 0 | Cs |
| Canal W/dls | = | 4065 | Cs |

CHENAB @ MARALA:

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------|----|
| U/S DISCHARGE | = | 13884 | Cs |
| D/S DISCHARGE | = | 8984 | Cs |

TOTAL RIM STATION

| | | | |
|---------|---|-------|----|
| INFLOWS | = | 88533 | Cs |
|---------|---|-------|----|

TOTAL RIM STATION

| | | | |
|----------|---|-------|----|
| OUTFLOWS | = | 47934 | Cs |
|----------|---|-------|----|

IRSA RELEASES

| | | | |
|--------|----------|-------------|---------|
| Punjab | 28100 Cs | KPK | 2700 Cs |
| Sindh | 30000 Cs | Balochistan | 3000 Cs |

Irrigation Water Supply:

The irrigation water supply during February 2020 was 1.717 MAF against the last year's supply of 1.124 MAF, higher by 0.592 MAF (52.67 percent). During February 2020, as compared to the same time period of last year, the supply in Punjab was 0.469 MAF (higher by 23.54 percent), Sindh was 1.067 MAF (higher by 74.46 percent), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa received 0.032 MAF (lower by 20.0 percent) while Balochistan received water supply of 0.150 MAF (higher by 59.16 percent).

Fertilizer Offtake Situation

As per report of NFDC, the month of February 2020 started with opening inventory of 1038 thousand tons of Urea. During February, domestic Urea production was 511 thousand tons with total availability of 1549 thousand tons. Urea offtake during February 2020 remained 1345 thousand tons leaving behind closing balance of 204 thousand tons.

The opening inventory of DAP for February 2020 was 558 thousand tons. During February domestic production of DAP was 72 thousand tons. The total availability of DAP was 685 thousand tons which also includes 55 thousand tons of imported supplies. DAP offtake during November 2020 was 193 thousand tons leaving behind closing balance of 493 thousand tons.

During February 2020, offtake of Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash increased by 79.8, 13.1 and 10.1 percent respectively, as compared to the same period of last year.

| Product | Opening Inventory | Domestic Production | Imports | Total Availability | Offtake | Write On/Off | Closing Balance |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|
| 000 Tons | | | | | | | |
| Urea | 1038 | 511 | 0 | 1549 | 1345 | 0 | 204 |
| DAP | 558 | 72 | 55 | 685 | 193 | 1 | 493 |

IMPORT & EXPORT SITUATION

Pakistan's trade deficit contracts 27% to \$15.7b

Pakistan booked a trade deficit of \$15.7 billion in first eight months of current fiscal year, down 27% due to suppression of imports, amid rekindled hopes for the revival of exports that bounced back after contracting for three months in a row.

In February, export receipts showed an increase of 13.6% and amounted to \$2.13 billion, giving a reason for celebration to members of the government's economic team, who immediately started sending congratulatory tweets.

Export receipts in February hit the highest level in nine months. Last time in May 2019, the exports had risen to \$2.1 billion, according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) figures.

Since then, exports have fluctuated between \$1.7 billion and \$2 billion, which does not reflect the true potential. Historically, exports have stayed around \$2 billion a month. The Ministry of Commerce took to Twitter to announce the trade statistics, which otherwise is the responsibility of the PBS.

Total exports increased 3.6% to \$15.6 billion in Jul-Feb of the current fiscal year, announced Commerce Secretary Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera through his Twitter handle.

In absolute terms, Pakistan managed to increase exports by \$547 million from July through February.

The cumulative increase in exports was appreciable when compared with the export trend in Pakistan's competing countries and the global economic situation, stated the commerce secretary.

Imports during the eight-month period dropped 14.4% to \$31.3 billion, according to the commerce secretary. In absolute terms, imports contracted \$5.3 billion, which provided some relief for the government.

After the first review, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that the trade deficit of Pakistan in the current fiscal year would narrow down to \$24.3 billion, also slightly lowering its projections due to weakening exports.

The IMF had earlier predicted that exports would grow to \$26.8 billion but in its latest report the estimate was revised down by nearly a billion dollars to \$25.7 billion.

Overall, the trade deficit, which stood at \$21.5 billion in the first eight months of previous fiscal year, shrank to \$15.7 billion in the same period of current fiscal year. In absolute terms, there

was a reduction of \$5.8 billion in the trade deficit and 91% of the improvement came from the import side.

Eight-month exports were equal to 58.2% of the annual target of \$26.8 billion while imports were equal to 60% of the target of \$51.7 billion.

In the ongoing financial year, due to global slowdown and other factors such as Brexit, exports of India declined 1.9% and Bangladesh's exports fell 5.2% while Pakistan's exports increased 3.6%, said Aliya Hamza Malik, Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce and Industry.

She said the textile sector was running on full production capacity and food exports were also rising significantly.

Successive governments have been providing subsidised loans, gas and electricity to the exporters but they have always asked for more. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has once again reached an understanding with the exporters, promising them to provide cheaper electricity and gas.

Over a year ago, the PTI government had also given huge benefits to the exporters and in return they promised to revive 200 closed units. But no one talked about the revival of units after winning concessions from the government.

On a yearly basis, exports increased 13.6% to \$2.13 billion over the same month of last year, a net increase of \$256 million.

In February 2020, imports in dollar terms fell to \$3.95 billion compared to \$4.14 billion in the same month of last year, which reflected a contraction of over 4.6% or \$189 million.

The trade deficit in February contracted roughly 20% to \$1.8 billion over the same month of last year due mainly to import compression.

Textile Policy 2020-25: Pakistan to increase textile exports to \$25.3 billion by 2025

The draft of Pakistan Textile Policy for 2020-25 with four tier strategy and 21 recommendations is all set to be pitched any time before the ECC (Economic Coordination Committee) for approval. It will try to increase the country's textile exports target by 2025 to \$25.3 billion and \$50 billion by 2030. It was \$13.33 billion in 2018.

The draft of Textile Policy also spells out its the objectives which include

- 1) Restoring profitability of cotton farmers by increasing cotton yield, improving quality of cotton and decreasing cost of production for the farmers;
- 2) Strengthening manmade fiber/filament sector to make this chain internationally competitive and export oriented;
- 3) Regionally competitive energy pricing fixed for five years;
- 4) Prompt Sales Tax Refund System;
- 5) Abolition of Zero- Rating has created serious liquidity crisis for exporting sectors as the current refund system is soaking up market liquidity and is not working;
- 6) Long Term Financing Facility for the entire textile value chain;
- 7) Revival of impaired textile capacity and introduction of bankruptcy law.
- 8) Establishment of Textile clusters and Export Processing Zones with plug and play facilities.

It says that the global textile trade that stands at \$837 billion had an average growth rate of 0.1% over the last decade. When it comes to the global market for textile sector exports, it is dominated by China, which accounts for over 32pc of textile sector exports, valued at \$266 billion. Presently, Pakistan's share is 1.6pc in the world textile trade, which will be increased to 3 percent by 2025. The world textile export that stands at \$837 billion will reach \$843.35.

China to help Pakistan establish comprehensive pest control system

China would help Pakistan establish and improve a comprehensive pest control system, and effectively improve its ability to prevent and control biological disasters, said a Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson on Monday. Commenting on supply of pesticides and spraying equipment to help Pakistan fight locust disaster, he said, "China and Pakistan are all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners. The two countries have always had a fine tradition of helping each other."

China had transported a batch of locust control materials to Pakistan, including 50,000 liters of pesticides and 15 high-powered spraying equipment. Among them, the first supplies had arrived in Pakistan. A new batch of new coronavirus test kits was also shipped on the same plane that transported locust supplies to Pakistan, he added.

Pakistan was currently fighting a severe locust disaster and added, in order to help Pakistan respond to the disaster, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs sent a team of experts of disaster prevention and control to inspect the severely affected areas in Pakistan.

Trade between Pakistan, Iran via rail to be promoted

Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad says further steps will be taken to promote trade between Iran and Pakistan via rail. He was talking to the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad-Ali Hosseini who called on him in Islamabad on Tuesday. The two sides discussed bilateral issues during the meeting and agreed to improve measures to promote peace and brotherhood. The Iranian Ambassador expressed desire to restart Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul container train, saying that it would also promote tourism and freight services. The Railways Minister invited a technical team from Iran to upgrade Quetta-Taftan section of the railway track.

Pakistan and China to establish "Green Channel" to boost Pakistan's agricultural exports

Pakistan's e-commerce sector has the potential to strengthen trade. However, e-commerce platforms and other measures are still required to have a fully operational e-commerce sector. Chinese Professor Cheng Xizhong at Southwest University of Political Science and Law wrote that State Bank of Pakistan is working on a fast-tracking domestic and international online payment system. In a recent meeting of Chinese Customs officials with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), both parties decided to set up a mutual custom cooperation mechanism, enhance border management cooperation, and appoint focal persons for active liaison and regular meetings. The two countries are going to build Green Corridor for fast customs clearance at Sust Dry Port, Pakistan, and Khunjerab Dry Port at Tashkurgan on the Chinese side to boost agricultural products' export to China. China already has "Green Channels" with countries like Mongolia, Russia, and Kazakhstan. To boost bilateral trade through e-commerce platforms, Pakistan must also have to create a fully functional e-commerce store companies Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

NEWS & TRENDS**Innovative agricultural technologies to transform farmers' lives**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) hosted the first-ever 'Modernising Agriculture through Innovative Technologies Conference 2020' in Islamabad here on Tuesday. The event showcased the transformational impact of the US-Pakistan partnership to advance agricultural commercialization in Pakistan through strategic partnerships with 30 dynamic agricultural technologies businesses.

The conference is part of USAID's four-year Pakistan Agricultural Technology Transfer Activity (PATTA). This initiative enables the private sector to give Pakistani farmers access to innovative

agricultural products and management practices, which improve productivity and enhance competitiveness.

One of the important highlights of the conference was the unveiling of PATTA's 'Agri-Tech Hub' - a suite of pioneering agricultural technologies and tools being promoted by the project and its agribusiness partners. Key agriculture sector stakeholders also held a panel discussion on the potential of private sector agri-tech investments to transform Pakistani agriculture, create jobs, encourage adoption of agricultural innovations, reduce costs, and solve problems for farmers and growers.

ECC bans sugar exports in attempt to regulate prices

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) banned sugar export in an attempt to regulate the surging prices. The move comes following an ECC meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan's adviser on finance, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, the sources said, adding that the committee also decided against a recommendation for Pakistan to import sugar.

The Ministry of Industries and Production was directed to keep a close watch over sugar prices across the country and directives issued to relevant authorities to initiate stern action against those found guilty of hoarding sugar.

The ECC's decision to ban sugar export comes at a time when the sugar crisis occurred in Pakistan on the heels of the wheat flour crisis. Sugar crisis started skyrocketing a few days after a wheat price hike across the country prompted an investigation into the matter by the government.

Punjab government gives 50% grant on solar system for sprinkle and drip irrigation

Punjab agriculture department is giving 50 percent grant on fixing of solar system, for sprinkle and drip irrigation while the remaining costs are contributed by the beneficiary farmers. The purpose of this initiative is to fulfill the water deficiency and help in increasing agriculture productivity in the province of Punjab.

Agriculture productivity in the province of Punjab suffers from low productivity due to poor farm management practices, high production costs, inadequate water availability and limited knowledge of using modern technologies for crop production. Small farmers are unable to make use of modern technologies due to their poor economic conditions and high initial cost of technologies.

According to assistant director agriculture department Naveed Asmat Kohloon said in statement that sprinkle and drip irrigation system is being presented at 20,000 acres of land in the Punjab.

The government of Punjab reserved Rs 3.68 billion for this project. Sprinkle and Drip Irrigation with the help of solar system is of essential important for increasing agriculture productivity.

Pakistan appealing for anti-locust plan with other countries

The agriculture ministers of Pakistan, India, Iran and Afghanistan will connect via video conferencing to draw a strategy to treat with the worst locust attack hit the region in nearly three decades as crowds of the insects are destroying entire harvests in these countries. Representatives of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) will also participate in the meeting via a video link from Abu Dhabi.

It is feared that recent rains in different areas of Pakistan and other countries in the region would further worsen the problem. The UN has endorsed the explosive growth of locust populations to heavy rains and cyclones in the Arabian Peninsula last year. The FAO has promised to support the Pakistani government in overcoming the crisis. Last month, the FAO and the national food security and research ministry signed a technical cooperation project agreement to develop a roadmap for locust control in the country.

China has also been helping Pakistan in controlling locust. A team of Chinese experts are working closely with their peers in Pakistan for controlling the locust problem that includes using a fungus to kill off the pests.

Pakistan has been using chemical pesticides to deal with the current locust plague and local experts hope that they can introduce China's biological control methods to the country before the autumn harvest. The experts believe that the next four to six weeks will be a dangerous period for the eradication of locusts in Balochistan.

CCI chooses to implement uniform food standards across the country

The Council of Common Interests (CCI) has decided that the implementation of food standards shall be done by provinces and the local governments, and a single harmonized standard shall prevail across the country as a national standard.

CCI has issued its choices about implementation of the food standards at the local as well as provincial levels. The CCI decisions are informed for further implementation. First, single harmonized standards shall prevail across the Pakistan as national standard/Pakistan standard. All provincial standards shall be revoked with national standards, prepared by the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA). Second, the PSQCA shall analysis the composition of Technical Committees and National Standards Committees by giving more representation to the provinces. The PFAs shall also be included in the committees.

Third, the implementation of food standards shall be done by the provinces and the local governments. Fourth, the registration/licensing shall be completed by the federal government, whereas, the returns will be shared with the provinces.

Fifth, the National Standards Steering Committee for Food Standards will be comprised by including at least two representatives from each province including Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), PSQCA, and Pakistan Business Council etc. The said committee shall be led by the DG, PSQCA. Sixth, the National Standards Steering Committee shall evaluate all the food standards to reduce the variations.



زرعی سفارشات برائے کسان

بہاریہ موگ

- ☆ موگ کی کاشت مارچ کے پہلے ہفتے سے آخر مارچ تک کی جاسکتی ہے۔ البتہ مارچ کا پہلے دو ہفتے کاشت کے لیے موزوں ہیں۔
- ☆ اچھی پیداوار کے حصول کے لیے آپاش علاقوں میں منظور شدہ اقسام نیاب موگ -2006، ازری موگ -2006، نیاب موگ 2011 اور نیاب موگ 2016 جبکہ بارانی علاقوں میں چکوال M-6 کاشت کریں۔
- ☆ شرح بیج 10 تا 12 کلوگرام بیج فی ایکڑ کاشت کے لیے استعمال کریں۔
- ☆ بیجائی ہمیشہ تروتہ حالت اور قطاروں میں کریں تاکہ اگاؤ بہتر ہو سکے۔ قطاروں کا درمیانی فاصلہ ایک فٹ رکھیں اور پودوں کا آپس میں درمیانی فاصلہ 8 سے 10 سینٹی میٹر ہونا چاہیے۔
- ☆ موگ کے لیے ایک بوری ڈی اے پی اور آدھی بوری ایس او پی بیجائی سے پہلے اور آخری ہل کے بعد چھڑ کر کے سہاگہ دیں۔

کماد

- ☆ کماد کی کاشت کا وقت آخر مارچ تک ہے۔ بروقت کاشت اور دیگر موزوں حالات میں نی ایکڑ دو آنکھوں والے 30 ہزار سے یا تین آنکھوں والے 20 ہزار سے ڈالنے چاہئیں۔
- ☆ زرخیز زمین کے لیے 3 بوری یوریا + 2 بوری ڈی اے پی اور 2 بوری ایس او پی / ایم او پی، درمیانی زمین کے لیے 3.50 بوری یوریا + 2.5 ڈی اے پی بوری + 2 بوری ایس او پی اور کمزور زمین کے لیے 4 بوری یوریا + 3 بوری ڈی اے پی + 2 بوری ایس او پی فی ایکڑ ڈالیں۔

موڈھی فصل

- ☆ مارچ تک موڈھی فصل رکھنے کے لیے موسم بہت مفید ہے۔ کیونکہ اس وقت رکھی گئی موڈھی فصل سے شگوفے خوب پھوٹتے ہیں اور پودے اچھا جھاڑ بناتے ہیں۔
- ☆ کماد کی فصل میں کیڑوں کے حملے، بیماری لگنے اور ہل چلانے سے مڈھ اکڑ یا مر جاتے ہیں جن کی وجہ سے پودوں کی مطلوبہ تعداد تکمیل نہیں ہو پاتی لہذا جہاں خالی جگہ نظر آئے وہاں اسی قسم کے سے زمین میں دبا دیں۔

بہاریہ مکی

- ☆ موسمی حالات کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے 5 سے 7 دن کے وقفہ سے آپاشی کریں۔ کھیت کو تروتہ حالت میں رکھیں خصوصاً پھول بننے پر اور دانہ بننے پر پانی کی کمی ہرگز نہ آنے دیں۔



☆ فصل کی اچھی پیداوار کے لیے محکمہ زراعت کی - غارش کردہ دوغلی اقسام کاشت کریں۔

☆ ڈرل سے کاشت کی صورت میں شرح بیج 12 سے 15 کلوگرام بیجا۔ ڈوں پر کاشت کی صورت میں شرح بیج 8 سے 10 کلوگرام فی ایکڑ رکھیں۔

☆ بہار یہ مکئی کی فصل کو پہلی آبپاشی ہوائی کے وقت اور دوسری آبپاشی ایک ہفتہ کے بعد کریں تاکہ گاؤ بہتر ہو سکے۔ سرد موسم میں آبپاشی کی تعداد کم اور وقفہ زیادہ رکھیں۔ جبکہ درجہ حرارت بڑھنے پر آبپاشی کی تعداد بڑھا کر وقفہ کم کر دیں۔

گندم

☆ اگیتی کاشت گندم کو تیسرا پانی بجائی کے 125 سے 135 دن بعد اور چھٹی کاشت گندم کو بجائی کے 110 سے 115 دن کے بعد لگائیں۔
☆ یہ مرحلہ سٹوں میں دانے بننے کا ہوتا ہے اگر اس مرحلہ میں پانی کی کمی ہو جائے تو دانوں کا سائز چھوٹا رہتا ہے۔ اور پیداوار میں کمی آجاتی ہے۔

☆ گندم پرست تیل کا حملہ مارچ کے آخر تک شدت اختیار کر جاتا ہے لہذا است تیلے کے انسداد کے لیے کیمیائی ادویات کا استعمال ہرگز نہ کریں کیونکہ اس کے بہت برے اثرات ہیں جن میں ماحول کا آلودہ ہونا، صحت کے مسائل اور مفید کیڑوں کا خاتمہ شامل ہے۔
☆ زیادہ بارشیں ہونے کی وجہ سے جڑی بوٹیوں کی تعداد میں خاطر خواہ اضافہ ہوتا ہے اس لیے ان کی تلفی پر خاص توجہ دی جائے۔

سورج مکھی

☆ بہار یہ سورج مکھی کی کاشت جلد از جلد مکمل کر لیں تاکہ پیداوار میں کمی واقع نہ ہو۔

☆ اچھے گاؤ کا دو کلوگرام بیج فی ایکڑ استعمال کریں۔

☆ فصل کو قطاروں پر کاشت کریں۔ قطاروں کا درمیانی فاصلہ سوا دو فٹ سے اڑھائی فٹ رکھیں اور پودے سے پودے کا درمیانی فاصلہ آبپاش علاقوں میں 19 انچ اور بارانی علاقوں میں 12 انچ رکھیں۔

سبزیات

☆ بھنڈی، توری، کریلا، گھیا کدو، پیٹنگن، ٹماٹر، سبز مرچ، شملہ مرچ، تر اور کھیرے کی کاشت پٹیوں کی ایک جانب کریں۔

☆ ٹماٹر اور مرچ کی پیڑی 30 سے 35 دن کی ہونے کے بعد پٹیوں پر کاشت کریں۔

Source: Zarat nama, Government of Punjab (Farmers' Advisory)

Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (Farmers' Advisory Services)

پلاننگ اینڈ ریسرچ ڈیپارٹمنٹ

ہیڈ آفس، زرعی ترقیاتی بینک لمیٹڈ،

اسلام آباد

آگہی بسلسلہ کورونا وائرس

طبعی ماہرین کے مطابق کرونا وائرس جانور سے پھیلنے والا وائرس ہے۔ جو ایک انسان سے کسی دوسرے انسان میں باآسانی منتقل ہو جاتا ہے۔

علامات

- ☆ بخار جسمانی درجہ حرارت کا بڑھ جانا، کھانسی، سانس لینے میں مشکلات اس مہلک مرض کی نمایاں علامات ہیں۔
- ☆ یہ بظاہر بخار سے شروع ہوتا ہے جسکے بعد خشک کھانسی آتی ہے۔
- ☆ ایک ہفتے بعد سانس لینے میں دشواری ہوتی ہے۔ کچھ مریضوں کو ہسپتال جانے کی نوبت آ جاتی ہے۔
- ☆ کچھ لوگوں میں وائرس موجود ہونے کے باوجود علامات ظاہر نہیں ہوتیں۔
- ☆ چین کے بعد پاکستان کے ہمسایہ ملک ایران میں کورونا وائرس کی وبا تیزی سے پھیل چکی ہے۔ اس ضمن میں حکومت پاکستان بھرپور کوشش کر رہی ہے کہ کورونا وائرس کے مریضوں کی پوری نگرانی کی جائے اور مناسب اقدامات کر کے انفیکشن کو مقامی سطح پر روکا جاسکے۔

احتیاطی تدابیر

اگر علامات ظاہر ہوں تو؟

- ☆ گھبرائیں نہیں بلکہ احتیاط کریں۔
- ☆ ہاتھ صابن سے بار بار دھوئیں یا الکوحل سے بنے مخلول سے صاف کریں۔
- ☆ کھانتے یا چھینکتے وقت منہ کوٹشو، رومال یا کٹنی ڈھانپ لیں۔
- ☆ کھانسی کی صورت میں دوسروں سے ملنے سے اجتناب کریں اور گھر پر آرام کریں۔
- ☆ کھانسی کے مریض کو ماسک پہنائیں اور طبعی مائندہ کروائیں۔
- ☆ کھانسی یا سانس کی بیماری میں مبتلا مریض سے ایک میٹر تک دور رہیں۔
- ☆ انڈے اور گوشت کو صحیح طرح پکا کر استعمال کریں۔
- ☆ جانوروں کے پاس جانے سے پرہیز کریں اور پبلک مقامات پر بلاوجہ جانے سے گریز کریں۔

Research & Editorial Team

Mr. Muhammad Rashid, SVP (Head Planning & Research Division)
 Mr. Amir Islam, SVP (Head Planning & Research Department)
 Mr. Ijaz Hussain, AVP (Research & Publications Unit)
 Mr. Ahmed Hussain Khan, OG-III (Research & Publications Unit)
 Ms. Iqra Mazhar, OG-III (Research & Publications Unit)
 Ms. Sadia Noureen, OG-III (Research & Publications Unit)