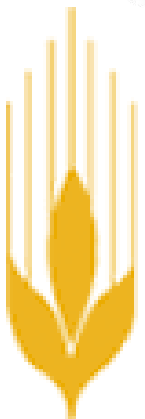


Vol.5, ISSUE IV, 2020

# AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK

APRIL, 2020



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Spraying/manual weedicides operations on wheat and other Rabi crops, harvesting/threshing of wheat in lower parts of the country, harvesting/crushing of sugarcane and irrigation as per requirement were the major field activities during the month of March 2020. Overall pace and development of the crops in irrigated as well as rainfed areas remained satisfactory due to favorable weather conditions.

Unfortunately, Pakistan could not achieved its production targets of its two major crops i.e. cotton and wheat in the ongoing fiscal year 2019-20, due to pest attack specially white fly and locust on crops. During the month of March 2020, Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association reported decline in cotton arrivals in ginning factories in both major cotton producing provinces, Punjab and Sindh, as compared to last season.

According to PMD, wheat crop has reached at its maturity stage in Sindh and Southern Punjab and harvesting has been almost completed in these areas. However, its harvesting would be delayed in upper half of the country for 1-2 weeks due to consistent rains. The Federal Government has assigned wheat procurements targets to all stakeholders including provinces and PASSCO. Harvesting of sugarcane crop has been completed in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and good yield is expected. Sowing of spring maize and sugarcane crop has also been completed in Punjab and Balochistan.

Among minor crops, Rabi pulses like Gram and Masoor are growing satisfactory and reached at maturity. While Lentil and Moong being Kharif crops are at sowing stage. Among oil seeds, sunflower castor oil and linseed are growing well with no insect pest attack. Harvesting of citrus has been completed and its marketing is in process. Seasonal fruits, like guava, banana and Kiwi fruits are growing satisfactory in Punjab and Sindh provinces. Sowing of summer vegetables in Punjab, Sindh and KP has been completed.

During the last month of the year, moist weather was observed due light to heavy rainfall in most parts of the country. However, dry weather was also reported in Sindh and lower parts of Balochistan. The mean daily Relative Humidity (R.H) was observed above normal in Upper / Central Punjab and KP, while below normal over the rest of the country. Mean daily temperature remained 14°C-25°C in the country. Normal to slightly above normal rainfall is expected in April, 2020 in most of the agricultural plains in upper parts of the country including upper Punjab, northern Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu Kashmir.

Thanks to Almighty Allah, water situation remained normal in the country due to heavy showers throughout the month of March. An increasing trend was also observed in most of water reservoirs like Rawal, Khanpur and Terbela dam.

According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), total exports stood at Rs. 288 billion and remained down than February 2020 but showed an increase over the same period last year. Major commodities of exports during February were ready mate garments, knitwear, cotton cloth, rice , Vegetables, fruits and Made up articles etc. The imports were reported at Rs. 525 billion showed a decreasing trend over February 2020 and March 2019. Main commodities of imports during the said period were Petroleum products, Petroleum crude, Natural gas and liquefied, plastic materials, raw cotton, palm oil, power generating equipments, iron and steel and electronic machinery apparatus. Fertilizer off-take is also reported an increase of 33.7% as data released by National Fertilizer Development Center (NDFC), Islamabad.

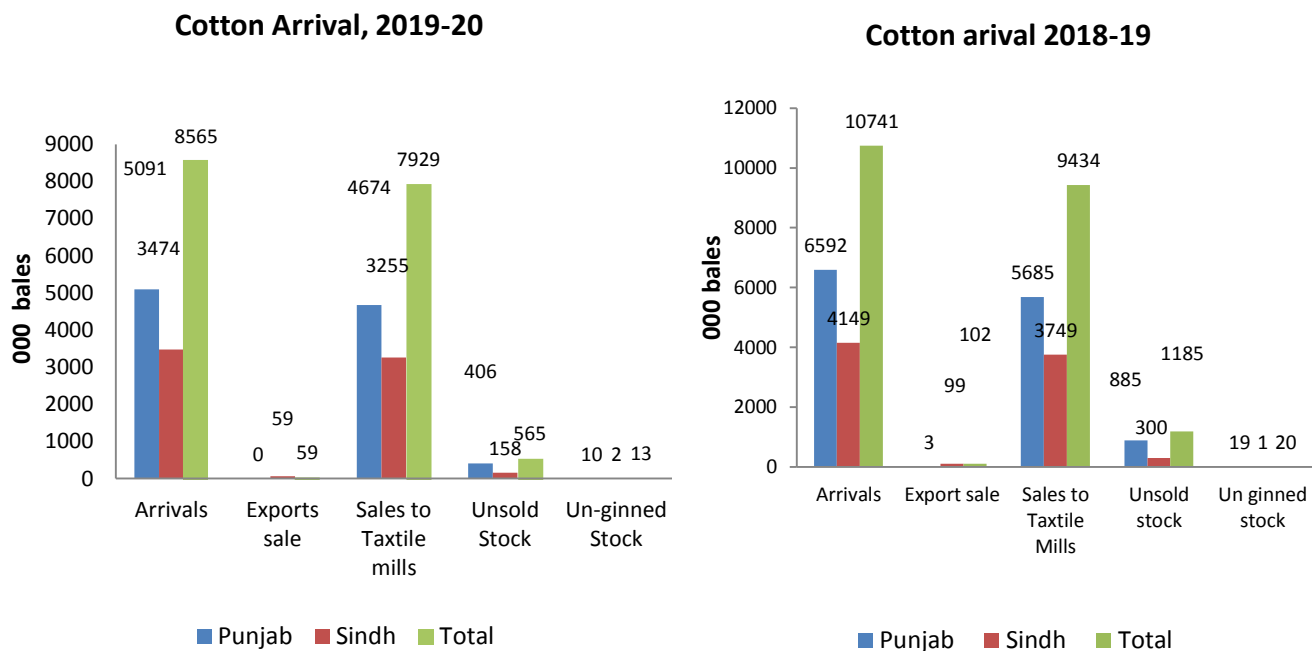
## CURRENT CROP SITUATION

### Cotton

During current financial year, cotton production remained dented that affects growers and ultimately hit the textile sector, particularly ginning and Spinning units. High temperatures during September resulted in insect pest pressure particularly of whitefly and locust attack limiting overall crop size to lowest of the decade. Cotton Crop Assessment Committee (CCAC) in its second estimation meeting held on 19 December, 2019, assessed total production of 9.451 million bales during 2019-20.

According to Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) report cotton, arrival of cotton showed a decline of 20.3% in ginning factories as compared to previous season and stood at 8.565 million bales as on March 01, 2020. According to Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), cotton arrival in ginning factories of Punjab was 5.091 million bales with decline of 22.8%. Likewise, Sindh also witnessed a decline of 16.3% with arrival of 3.474 million bales in ginning factories.

As mentioned above, current cotton crop faced a severe attack of locust swarms and could not achieve production target of 12.72 million bales as reported by Provincial Agri. Departments. Federal Government is enthusiastic to take more initiatives for increasing the area of cotton in next year. In this context, pure seed will be provided to cotton growers for enabling them to combating pest attacks like white fly and pink boll worm. Moreover, Punjab Government has also imposed section 144 to in whole province to prevent next cotton crop from attack of Pink boll worm.



Source: Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association.

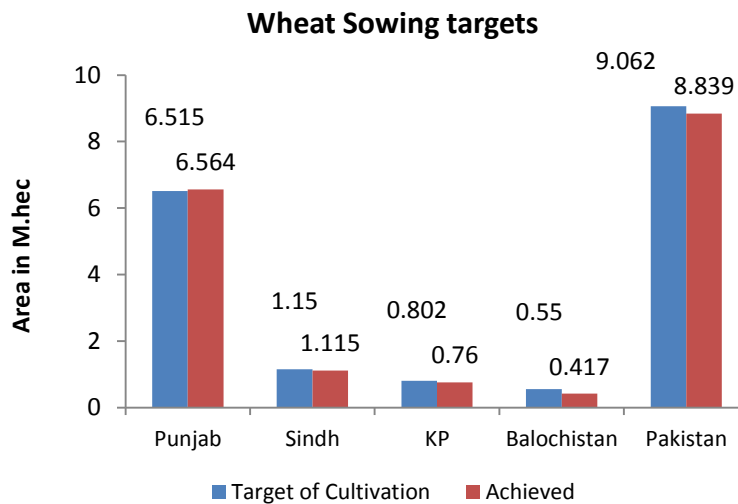
## Wheat

Crop condition is reported as satisfactory and is touching maturity in various districts of Punjab, KP and Balochistan Province. While it's harvesting has been started in Southern Punjab and completed in Sindh. Besides harvesting, procurement of wheat has also been initiated in various districts of Sindh since March 05, 2020.



Harvested Wheat at Tando Jam, Sindh

Like Cotton, wheat crop could not achieve its production target of 27.03 m tons for the current Rabi Season 2019-20 due to recent outbreak of locust attack, late sowing plus unfavorable weather conditions in main growing areas of Punjab and Sindh . The country's wheat production may reach up to 25 m tons, as sowing targets have already been missed by all provinces as shown in the chart below. Moreover, 1.5 m tons of wheat has also been damaged due to unfavorable weather conditions in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

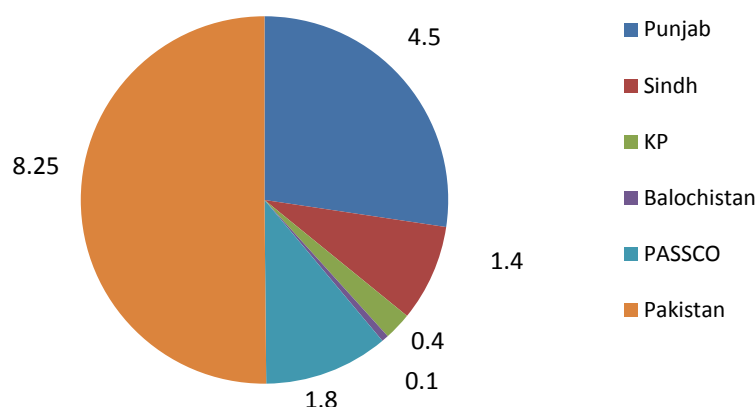


## Procurement of Wheat Crop

The Federal Government has set Rs. 1400 per 40 kg as procurement rate for current season of wheat crop. The Economic Coordination (ECC) of Cabinet in its recent meeting also accorded the approval for procuring 8.25 million tons wheat during current procurement campaign. The Provincial Government of Punjab has been tasked to procure 4.5 million tons of grains in order to fulfill the domestic requirements as well as keeping strategic reserves of food grains. Meanwhile, Sindh Government is assigned to procure 1.40 million tons of wheat and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan will procure 0.4 million tons and 0.10 million tons

of grains respectively during current procurement drive. Similarly, Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Services Cooperation (PASSCO) will procure 1.80 million tons of wheat.

**Wheat Procurment Targets in Million Tons**



### **Sugarcane Crop**

Harvesting and crushing of last season crop has been completed in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and good yield is expected. Spring Crop is at growing stage and reported satisfactory in Punjab. Farmers are advised to remove weeds through management practices that are suggested by experts.

### **Maize Crop**

Spring season crop is at sowing stage in Punjab and Balochistan. However, in some areas its sowing has been completed and crop is at germination process. Farmers are advised to use recommended cultivars for cultivation to obtain higher yield.

### **Pulses**

- Gram crop is at maturity stage and reported as satisfactory in Punjab. Farmers are advised to start harvesting on setting 80% moisture level in seeds.
- Pulse Masoor is also ready for harvesting and crop reported satisfactory in Punjab province.
- Sowing of pulse moong has been started in Punjab province. However, its sowing has also been completed in various growing areas of the province.
- Sowing of Lentil crop as a Kharif crop has completed and recent rains may improve the crop early growth.

### **Oil Seeds**

- Sunflower crop is at growing stage and reported satisfactory in Punjab and Sindh. Farmers are advised to irrigate crop as and when required.
- Castor oil is growing satisfactory and its picking is in progress in Sindh.
- Growth of linseed has been reported well and the crop is at maturity stage in Sindh.
- Brassica and Raya are at harvesting stage in Punjab province.

- Sowing of Ground nut has been started in Punjab province. Farmers are advised to use recommended cultivars and with efficient management practices.

### Fruits and Vegetables

- Harvesting of citrus is almost near to end in the growing areas and now its marketing is in process. Among citrus, Kinnow is now being sold in markets of the country especially in Punjab.
- Mangoes are in fruit formation stage in Sindh province.
- The growth of other seasonal fruits like guava, banana and Kiwi fruit is also satisfactory in Punjab and Sindh provinces.
- Sowing of summer vegetables like tomatoes, capsicum, chilies, cucumber, luffa, pumpkin and Guard etc. has been completed while it is in process in some areas of all four provinces.

### WEATHER CONDITIONS

Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD), Islamabad has reported light to heavy rainfall in various plains of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, upper parts of Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir throughout the month of March, 2020. However, dry weather conditions also prevailed in Sindh and lower parts of Balochistan during the said period. Highest amount of Rainfall was reported at Malamjabba (494 mm) followed by Rawlakot (378 mm) and Cherat (340 mm). Minimum amount of rainfall was reported Harman at 223 mm lower than Muzaffarabad city (225 mm) as depicted in figures. Detail of rainfall at various locations is given at table below.

Table:1 Monthly total rainfall recorded across the country					
Sr.No.	Station	Rainfall(mm)	Sr.No.	Station	Rainfall(mm)
1	Malamjabba	494.0	11	Kamra	246.0
2	Rawlakot	377.8	12	Islamabad (Saidpur)	243.0
3	Cherat	340.0	13	Garhi Dupatta	242.2
4	Kotli	290.8	14	Bandi Abbaspur	236.0
5	Chattar Kalas	287.5	15	Risalpur	234.0
6	Murree	273.4	16	Buner	232.4
7	Panjera	271.1	17	Ttock	231.0
8	Kakul	251.3	18	Muzaffarabad City	224.8
9	Dir	251.2	19	Balakot	223.4
10	Hajira	250.4	20	Haraman	222.9

*Source: Pakistan Metrological Department*

Mean daily temperature remained almost normal to in most of the agricultural plains of the country. Mean daily temperature ranged between 17-19°C in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Potohar plateau, in remaining parts of Punjab 20 – 23°C, in Sindh 23-24°C, in Gilgit Baltistan 8 to 14°C and was observed 12°C in the high elevated agricultural plains of Baluchistan represented by Quetta valley. In terms of accumulated growing degree days, Sindh remained top among other provinces as it accumulated 115 degree days. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained top of the list in terms of average relative humidity, where it recorded as 77 percent. Maximum wind speed in both morning and evening times were reported at Punjab during the last month.

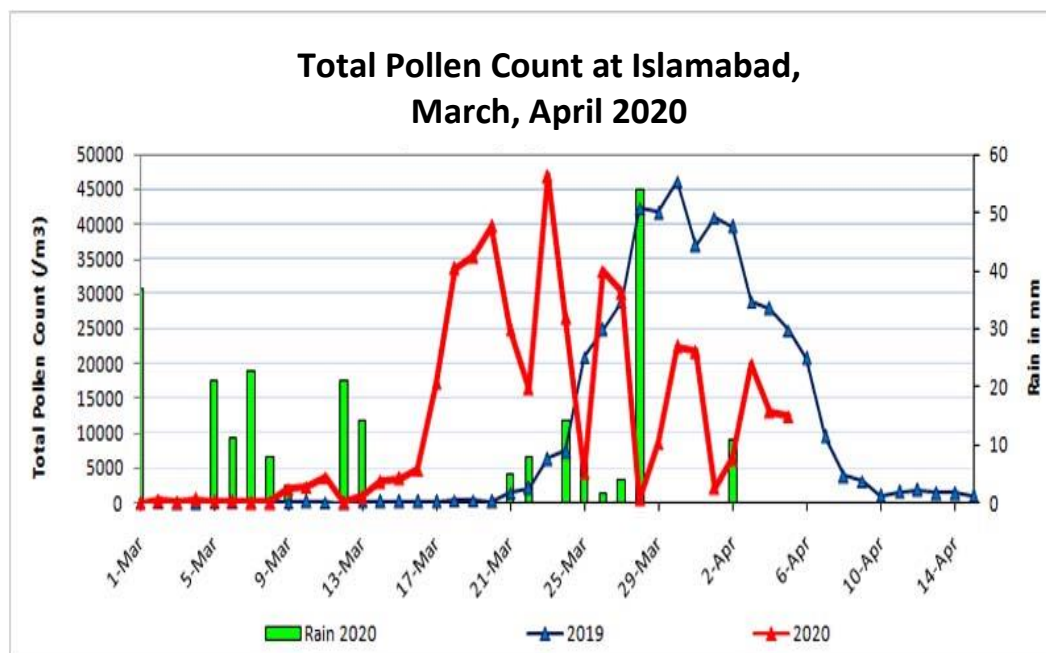


Provinces	Temperature (Centigrade)		Degree days	Humidity %	Wind Speed (Knots)	
	Max	Min			Morning	Evening
Punjab	22	11.5	81.5	73	2.95	4.05
Sindh	30	14	115.5	55.5	2.15	3.35
KPK	17	5.5	44	77	2	2.5
Balochistan	23	8.5	72	49.5	1.55	6.45
Gilgit Baltistan and AJK	16	5	37	59	1.35	1.9

Note: calculations are based on first two weeks of March

### Total Pollen Count

Pollens i.e. pollen grains are released by various plants like Paper Mulberry, Acacia, Eucalyptus, Pines, Grasses, Cannabis, Dandelion and Alternaria etc. in spring season. These pollens cause allergic and respiratory diseases in humans like asthma, cough and flu. Among, plants Paper Mulberry shares about 97% of the total pollen and its concentration touches the extreme limits of about 40,000 per cubic meter of air at the peak of the blossom season. Pakistan Metrological Department is continuously monitoring the air borne pollen at Islamabad throughout the year. Rainy spell during the first week of March, 2020 has delayed onset of pollen season in Islamabad. People have suffered from Asthma and respiratory diseases due to sharp increase in pollen concentrations.



### Weather forecast for April, 2020

During April, western waves are shifted northwards and frequency of western disturbances becomes less. However, due to increased solar heating, mesoscale convective activity dominates over the plains and



mountainous areas. As a result, sometimes heavy downpour associated with hailstorm and thunderstorm occurs with localized characteristics. Therefore, farmers are advised to adopt precautionary measures to minimize post-harvest losses of Rabi crops.

The Rabi crops in the field are near to maturity in low elevation agricultural plains, therefore, no irrigation is recommended in such areas. At higher elevations, the crops may be at early reproductive stage, and might require maximum amount of water. April rains in upper parts would be sufficient to meet crop water demands.

Mean daily air temperatures may range between 23°C and 30°C over most of the low elevation agricultural plains of the country whereas in high agricultural plains of Baluchistan, it may be around 17°C. The mean daily maximum temperatures are expected to range from 30 to 39°C following a southward increasing trend except Quetta valley where it may remain around 25°C. The mean minimum temperatures are likely to be in the range of 15 to 23°C except high agricultural plains of Baluchistan where it may remain around 8°C. The mean daily duration of bright sunshine is expected to range from 8 to 10 hours over most of the agricultural plains of the country. The intensity of solar radiation may range from 19 to 21 MJ/M<sup>2</sup> /day. The mean daytime wind speeds are likely to range from 4-8 Km/hour over most of agricultural areas of the country except high agricultural plains of Baluchistan where it may average about 11 Km/hour.

### DROUGHT SITUATION ANALYSIS

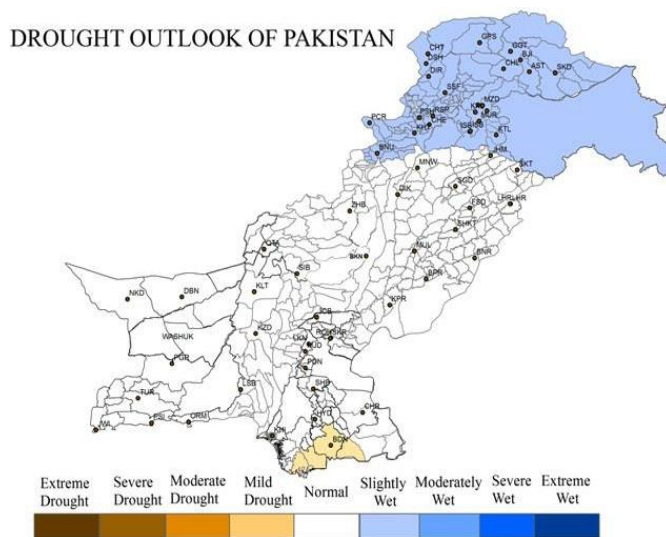
The month of March was fairly good for drought prone areas of Balochistan provided good relief over there, but not for few places in Sindh. Similarly, wet conditions also prevailed over the northern parts and adjoining areas of the country.

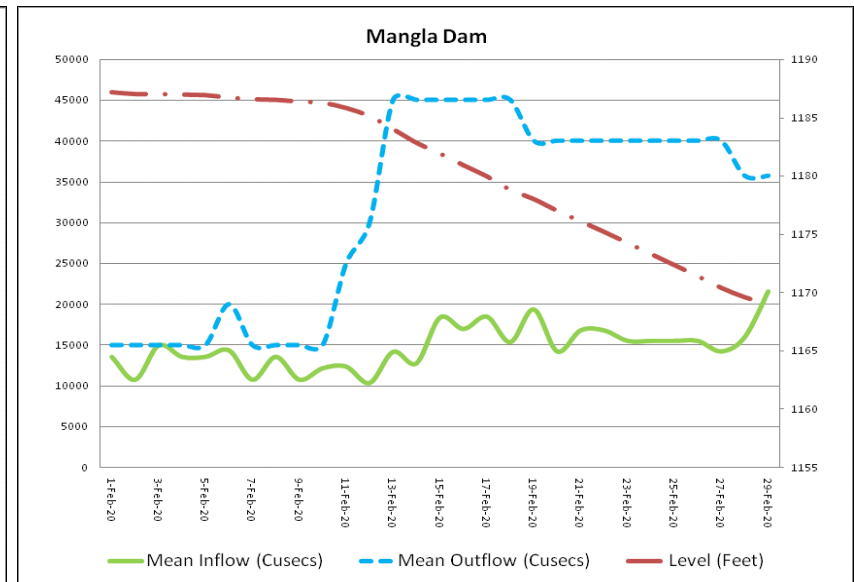
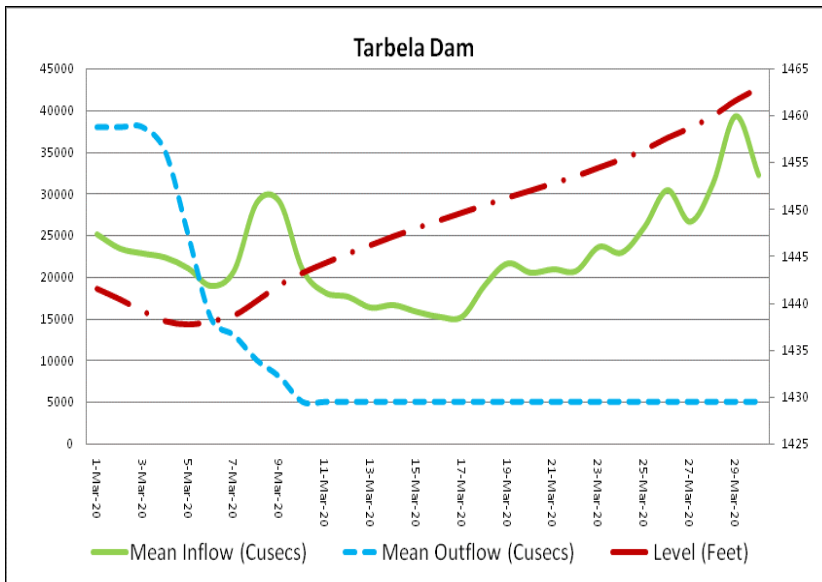
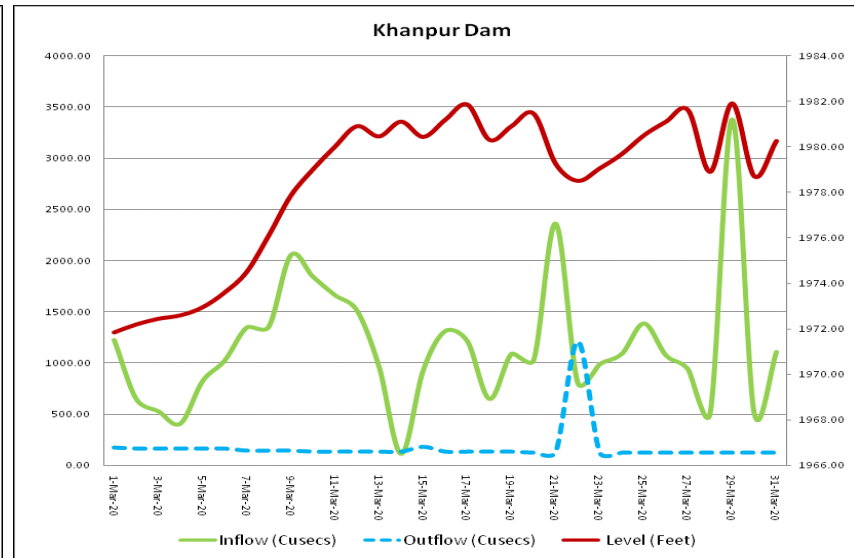
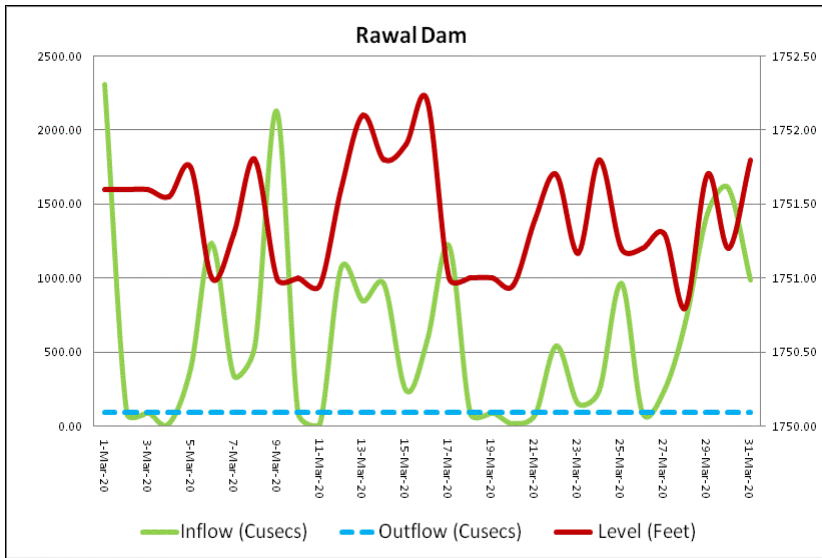
#### Drought Outlook for April 2020

All stakeholders are requested to make all efforts to watch water availability situation across rain-fed areas of Sindh and Balochistan especially in previously drought affected areas.

### WATER SITUATION

During the month of March 2020, water inflow, outflow and level of Rawal, Khanpur, Tarbela and Mangla dams are shown in Fig. An increasing trend in inflow and water level has been observed in Rawal, Khanpur and Tarbela while decreasing trend in Mangla dam has been reported. Keeping in view, Kharif season climate outlook, water conservation strategies and filling of major water reservoirs are proposed.





In cusecs

Barrages	Mean Inflow/U/S Discharge	Mean Outflow/D/S Discharge
Guddu	61,939	53,359
Chashma	49,374	36,211
Taunsa	29,273	29,273
Kalabagh	42,501	39,301
Panjnad	48,415	44,965
Sukkur	47,800	28,800
Kotri	26,389	11,214

Note. Estimates as on 31.03.2020

In cusec

Rim Stations	Mean Inflow/ U/S Discharge	Mean Outflow/ D/S Discharge
Indus at Tarbela	26,300	5000
Kabul Inflow at Nowshera	---	33,200
Jehlum at Mangla	46,380	10,000
Chenab at Marala	36,284	32,384

Note. Estimates as on 31.03.2020

**Source:** *www.pakirsa.gov.pk*

## MONTHLY AVERAGE PRICES OF AGRI COMMODITIES

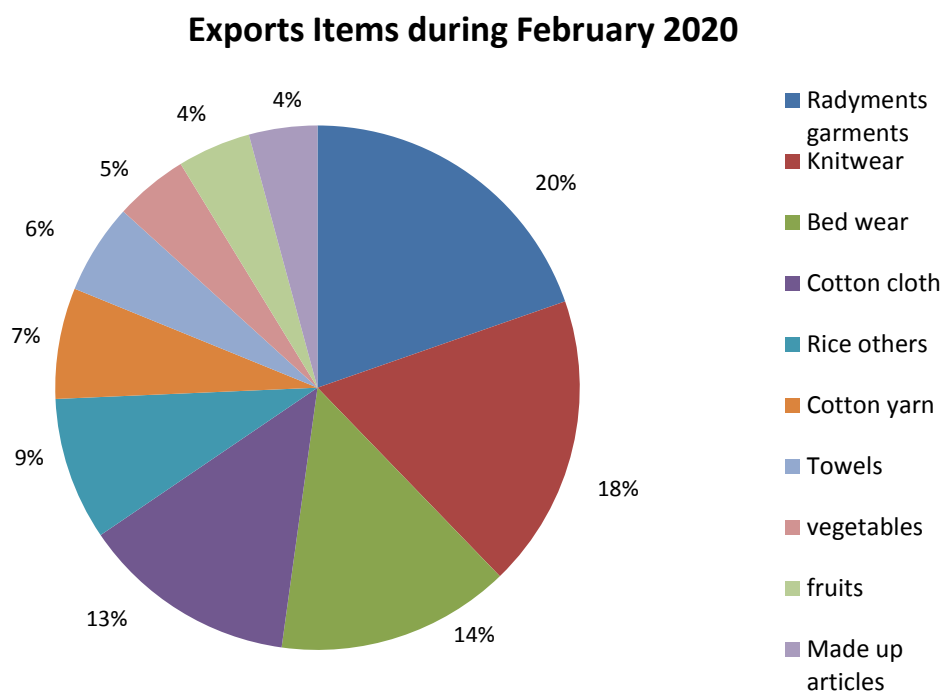
S. No.	Description	Unit	Average Prices			%change	
			Mar 20	Feb 20	Mar 19	Mar 20 over Feb 20 and Mar 19	
1.	Wheat Flour Bag	20 Kg	890.56	900.82	790.27	-1.14	12.69
2.	Rice Basmati Broken	1 Kg	82.03	81.75	76.03	0.34	7.89
3.	Rice IRRI-6/9 (Sindh/Punjab)	1 Kg	62.75	61.74	56.54	1.64	10.98
4.	Bread plain (Small Size)	Each	49.40	49.00	43.47	0.82	13.64
5.	Beef with Bone	1 Kg	436.09	432.99	397.51	0.72	9.71
6.	Mutton	1 Kg	905.17	892.82	811.23	1.38	11.58
7.	Chicken Farm Broiler (Live)	1 Kg	154.55	167.34	176.31	-7.64	-12.34
8.	Milk fresh (Un-boiled)	1 Ltr	94.75	93.87	86.85	0.94	9.10
9.	Curd (Dahi) Loose	1 Kg	109.49	107.94	101.52	1.44	7.85
10.	Powdered Milk NIDO 390 gm	Each	462.04	462.04	400.71	0.00	15.31
11.	Eggs Hen (Farm)	1 Dozen	105.00	98.76	100.40	6.32	4.58
12.	Mustard Oil	1 Kg	218.45	219.47	189.55	-0.46	15.25
13.	Cooking Oil	Each	1,298.22	1,291.52	1,020.82	0.52	27.17
14.	Vegetable Ghee 2.5 kg	Each	653.09	644.59	492.69	1.32	32.56
15.	Bananas (Kela) Local	1 Dozen	86.12	80.43	82.57	7.07	4.30
16.	Pulse Masoor (Washed)	1 Kg	141.48	145.39	119.67	-2.69	18.23
17.	Pulse Moong (Washed)	1 Kg	235.77	235.72	136.57	0.02	72.64
18.	Pulse Mash (Washed)	1 Kg	224.22	226.53	150.22	-1.02	49.26
19.	Pulse Gram	1 Kg	148.95	155.65	123.77	-4.30	20.34
20.	Potatoes	1 Kg	43.78	38.99	20.02	12.29	118.68
21.	Onions	1 Kg	72.09	60.93	36.03	18.32	100.08
22.	Tomatoes	1 Kg	37.52	45.48	95.61	-17.50	-60.76
23.	Sugar Refined	1 Kg	80.92	79.51	61.07	1.77	32.50
24.	Gur (Average Quality)	1 Kg	118.23	119.56	89.87	-1.11	31.56
25.	Salt Powdered	Each	30.00	30.00	29.54	0.00	1.56
26.	Chilies Powder 200 gm	Each	156.04	152.73	146.45	2.17	6.55
27.	Garlic (Lehsun)	1 Kg	347.86	377.68	177.64	-7.90	95.82

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

## IMPORT & EXPORT SITUATION

### Exports

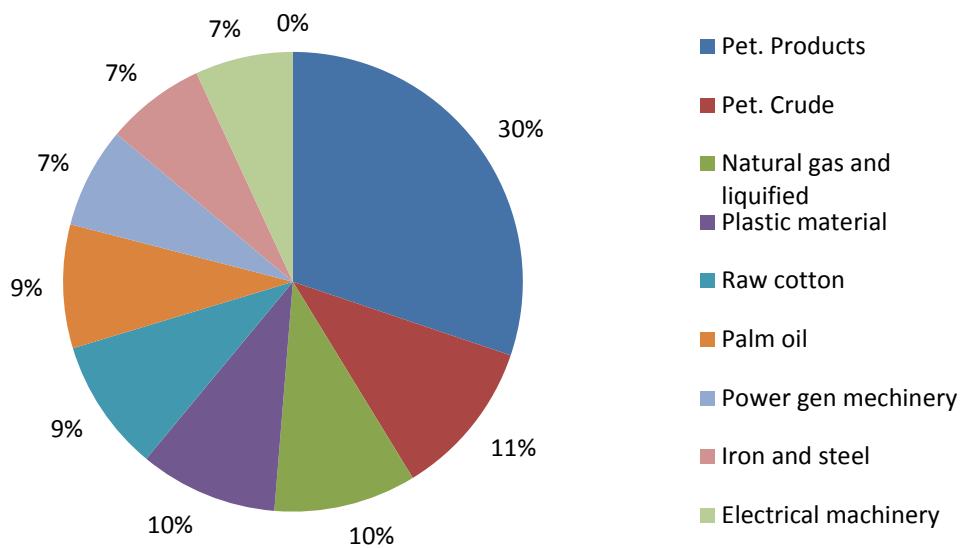
- According to the provisional figures compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, exports from Pakistan during March, 2020 amounted to Rs. 287.655 billion (provisional) as against Rs. 330.188 billion (provisional) in February, 2020 and Rs. 274.761 billion in March, 2019. Hence, decrease of 12.88% over February, 2020 but an increase of 4.69% over March, 2019 was reported.
- Exports during July-March, 2019-20 totaled Rs. 2,727.604 billion (provisional) as against Rs. 2,263.699 billion during the corresponding period of last year showing an increase of 20.49%.
- Main commodities of exports during February, 2020 were Readymade garments (Rs. 43,282 million), Knitwear (Rs. 39,854 million), Bed wear (Rs. 31,754 million), Cotton cloth (Rs. 29,313 million), Rice others (Rs.19,407 million), Cotton Yarn (Rs. 15,063 million), Towels (Rs. 12,267 million), Vegetables (Rs.9,983 million), Fruits (Rs. 9,945 million) and Made-up articles (excl. towels & bed wear) (Rs. 9,287 million).



## Imports

- Imports into Pakistan during March, 2020 amounted to Rs.525.020 billion (provisional) as against Rs. 645.648 billion (provisional) in February, 2020 and Rs. 572.815 billion during March, 2019 showing a decrease of 18.68 % over February, 2020 and by 8.34% over March, 2019.
- Imports during July-March, 2019-20 totaled Rs. 5,440.468 billion (provisional) as against Rs. 5,371.143 billion during the corresponding period of last year showing an increase of 1.29%.
- Main commodities of imports during February, 2020 were Petroleum products (Rs. 97,180 million), Petroleum Crude (Rs. 35,693 million), Natural gas, liquefied (Rs. 32,271 million), Plastic Materials (Rs. 31,283 million), Raw cotton (Rs.30,010 million), Palm oil (Rs.27,993 million), Power generating machinery (Rs.22,792 million), Iron and Steel (Rs.22,555 million), Electrical machinery and apparatus (Rs.22,187 million) and Iron and steel Scrap (Rs. 20,326 million).

**Main import items during February 2020**



## APPROVED CROP CALENDAR

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

## FERTILIZER OFF-TAKE SITUATION

- As per the latest data released by the National Fertilizer Development Center (NFDC), Islamabad total fertilizer off-take is increased by 33.7%YoY and 79% MOM.
- Cumulative production of all fertilizers rose by 18%YoY, on a MoM basis the production have surged by 5% to 640K tons during feb' 2020.
- The highest rise in off-take was in the DAP fertilizer (80%YoY/100%MoM) as the international prices of DAP was reduced and also due to the low base effect.



- The urea off take was mainly increased after DAP (19%YoY/76%MoM) due to the reduction in the Gas Infrastructure Development Cess (GIDC) from PKR 300/bag to PKR5/bag with the passing of the GIDC removal to end consumers.

### Fertilizer Rates in Punjab

Product	Unit	Average Rates in PKR
MOP	50kg	2,915
NP	50kg	2,975
NPK (زرخیز)	50kg	2,955
SOP	50kg	3,950
SSP	50kg	1,210
Urea	50kg	1,680
DAP	50kg	3,290
MOP	50kg	2,915
NP	50kg	2,975

*Rates are as on 06.04.2020*

### NEWS TRENDS

#### Minister for Food Security proposes establishment of High Level Technical Committee for Effective Control of Desert Locust:

A High Level Ministerial Meeting on Desert Locust threat to South-West Asian countries was held on 11 March, 2020 at FAO office in Islamabad through video link. Ministers and senior officials from India, Iran, Afghanistan & FAO Headquarter representatives along with officers from Ministries of National Food Security & Foreign Affairs were present in the meeting.

The Federal Minister NFS&R Mr. Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar, being a representative of Pakistan with his colleagues, proposed constitution of a High Level Technical Committee comprising senior officers from affected South-West Asian countries to manage and control of locust. While speaking, he emphasized that coordinated effort at regional level is required to control locust. He explained measures that are taken by Pakistan like declaration of National Emergency, application of aerial sprays via 3 planes and 4 helicopters. Pakistan is politically committed and has utilized 30 e-locust devices and requested FAO to provide 100 more such devices. He also appraised that Pakistan would assess losses on 20 million hectares of land and would managed at Balochistan accordingly.

In addition, the minister also called for timely sharing of information among regional countries and formulation of a comprehensive operational plan to manage and control of locust. He emphasized the need to create a South West Asian countries' window on Locust Watch to have better understanding of the regional threat of the pest. He also offered cooperation and support to Iran to tackle locust through bilateral mechanism.

Secretary Food Security said that the Ministry is playing the central role and Plant Protection Department (DPP), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMAs) and provincial governments are actively involved in control and surveillance of locust. He stated that the armed forces are also actively participating in the national action plan against locust. Secretary informed that 21 districts in Pakistan are affected by locust out of which 13 are severely affected. He said that a total of 173 surveillance and control teams are working on the ground. Representatives of FAO appreciated Pakistan's timely efforts to combat locust swarms and urged other affected countries to emulate Islamabad in this respect.

### **Cotton seed germination standards temporarily relaxed to 50% for kharif 2020**

Temporary relaxation in cotton seed germination standard to 50% for Kharif Season 2020 has been accorded by the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Seed Council, under the Chairship of Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research (NFS&R), Mr. Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar via video link on March 20, 2020. The meeting was attended by the Federal Secretary NFS&R, representatives from federal and provincial concerned departments.

In the meeting, it was decided that price of seed would be reduced in proportionate to relaxation in germination percentage by both public and private sectors. The meeting directed Seed Association of Pakistan to ensure that actual germination standard is mentioned on the bag liable to adjust proper seed rate. The minister also directed that no cotton seed below this germination standard should be offered for sale and in case of violation strict action should be taken under the provisions of the Seed Act, 1976 (seed amendment Act 2015). Federal and provincial Departments were also directed to develop a viable mechanism to ensure quality of seed germination and arrange awareness campaigns in this relevance.

### **China to Provide Operational Training in Locust Control: Chinese Ambassador**

Chinese Ambassador Mr. Yao Jing, called on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Makhdoom Khusro, said that in the upcoming visit of president of Pakistan MoU on Agriculture Corporation between the two countries would further strengthen the bilateral coordination especially in locust control.

Federal minister informed Chinese Ambassador that Pakistan is stretched with sprayers' machines as only one British company is manufacturing it and the demand for sprayers is increasing. He stressed that there is a need for concrete data from FAO regarding the locust affected regions so that new companies may come in market owing to the required market demand of these pesticide sprayers. Secretary National Food Security and research added that we require both vehicle driven and hand held pesticide sprayers.

Chinese ambassador said that first lot of pesticides has reached Pakistan from China and more pesticides with spray machines will reach later in April. A Team of technicians from china will soon visit Pakistan to provide operational training to local human resource, he added. Chinese Government also offered Pakistan more surveillance devices and drones to monitoring and management of locust issue. Federal minister also acknowledged the timely supply of pesticides and coordination form Chinese Government and said our preparedness level to tackle menace of locust is better that Afghanistan and Iran.

## زرعی سفارشات برائے کسان

### موگ پھلی

- ☞ موگ پھلی کی کاشت کا موزوں ترین وقت اپریل کے آخر تک ہے۔
- ☞ وتر کی کمی کی پیش نظر اسے 25 مارچ سے 31 مئی تک بھی کاشت کیا جاسکتا ہے۔
- ☞ کاشت بذریعہ پوریا ڈرل قطاروں میں کریں۔ بیج کی گہرائی 2 تا 3 سینٹی میٹر تک رکھیں۔ قطاروں کا درمیانی فاصلہ 45 سینٹی میٹر جبکہ پودوں کا آپس میں درمیانی فاصلہ 15 سے 20 سینٹی میٹر رکھیں۔
- ☞ کاشت کے لیے خالص اور منظور شدہ اقسام باری 2011، پوشو ہار اور باری 2016 اور بارڈ-479 کاشت کریں۔
- ☞ کاشت کے لیے شرح بیج 70 کلوگرام پھلیاں یا 40 کلوگرام گریاں فی ایکڑ یا 5 کلوگرام گریاں فی کنال استعمال کریں۔
- ☞ پھلی دار فصل ہونے کی وجہ سے موگ پھلی اپنی ضروریات کی 80 فیصد نائٹروجن فضا سے حاصل کر لیتی ہے۔ البتہ بہترین نشوونما کے لیے سوا بوری ڈی اے پی + آدھی بوری ایس او پی فی ایکڑ ضرور ڈالیں۔

### کپاس

- ☞ زمین کی بہتر تیاری کپاس کی اچھی پیداوار کی ضامن ہے۔ لہذا سب سے پہلے زمین میں موجود سخت تہ کو توڑنے کے لیے چزل مل چلائیں اور زمین کی ہمواری کے لیے لیزر لینڈ لیولنگ میکینا لوجی سے استفادہ کریں۔
- ☞ کپاس کی کاشت مرکزی علاقوں میں 15 اپریل سے 31 مئی تک ہے کپاس کی بوائی یکم اپریل سے پہلے ہرگز نہ کریں تاکہ گلابی سنڈی کے حملے سے بچا جاسکے۔
- ☞ برائے اتر اہواج 8 تا 6 کلوگرام اور دربردار 8 تا 10 کلوگرام فی ایکڑ کے حساب سے استعمال کریں۔ بوائی سے پہلے بیج کو مناسب کیڑے مارز ہرلگائیں۔ تاکہ شروع میں ایک ماہ تک دس چوسنے والے کیڑوں خاص طور پر سفید مکھی کے حملے سے بچا جاسکے۔
- ☞ کپاس کی بی بی اقسام کے ساتھ کم از کم 10 فیصد رقبہ نان بی بی اقسام بھی کاشت کریں، تاکہ حملہ آور سنڈیوں کے خلاف قوت مدافعت بھی پیدا ہو سکے۔

- ☞ کاشت کے چار سے پانچ دن کے بعد بیج اگنا شروع ہو جاتے ہیں اور خالی سوراخوں کا بخوبی پتہ چل جاتا ہے۔ لہذا ان کو پر کرنے کے لیے 5 سے 6 گھنٹے تک پانی میں بھگوئے ہوئے بیجوں میں سے 4 تا 5 بیج فی سوراخ ڈال کر مٹی سے ڈھانپ دیں۔

### بہاریہ مکئی

- ☞ راولپنڈی ڈویژن کے پہاڑی علاقوں میں مکئی کی کاشت کا وقت 15 مارچ سے 15 اپریل تک ہے۔
- ☞ ڈرل سے کاشت کی گئی فصل کی اچھی پیداوار حاصل کرنے کے لیے چھدرائی نہایت ضروری ہے۔ کمزور اور بیمار پودے نکال دیں اور

ۛ دوغلی اقسام کے لیے پودوں کا درمیانی فاصلہ 6 سے 8 انچ اور کئی کی عام اقسام کے لیے 7 سے 18 انچ پودوں کا درمیانی فاصلہ رکھیں۔  
 ۛ ڈرل یا پلانٹر سے کاشتہ فصل کو پہلی آبپاشی بوائی کے 10 سے 12 دن بعد کریں۔ اور نوٹوں پر کاشت کی گئی فصل میں وتر برقرار رکھیں۔  
 ۛ ان دنوں فصل پر کوئیل کی مکھی کا حملہ ہو سکتا ہے۔ فصل اگنے کے ایک ماہ بعد کیمیائی طریقہ انسداد کے داند دارزہروں کا انتخاب کریں۔

### بہاریہ کماڈ

ۛ فصل کی صحت مند پرورش کے لیے گوڈی اور تھائی بہت ضروری ہے۔ اس سے جڑی بوٹیاں بھی تلف ہو جاتی ہیں اور زمین بھی نرم ہونے کی وجہ سے فصل کی جڑیں خوب پھیلتی ہیں۔ پہلی گوڈی مکمل ہونے کے بعد دوسری مہینے بعد کریں۔  
 ۛ سیاڑوں کے درمیان بذریعہ کلٹیو میٹر جبکہ پودوں کے درمیان میں جڑی بوٹیاں نکالنے کے لیے کسولہ یا کھر پہ استعمال کریں۔

### گندم

ۛ آخری آبپاشی موسم اور پانی کی ضروریات کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے مکمل کر لیں۔  
 فصل میں چوہوں کے حملے کی صورت میں اگلی تلفی کے لیے زنگ فاسفائیڈ کی گولیاں یا ڈیلٹا فاس کی ٹکیاں استعمال کریں۔  
 تمام کاشتکاروں کو چاہیے کہ ضرورت کے مطابق گندم کی منظور شدہ نئی اقسام کا خالص بیج اپنی کاشتہ فصل سے خود پیدا کریں۔ اس مقصد کے لیے منتخب کھیت میں سے غیر اقسام کے پودے نکال دیں۔

### آم اور ترشاوہ باغات

ۛ اپریل کے مہینے میں فروٹ فلٹائی کے انسداد کے لیے جنسی چھندوں اور کیمیائی زہروں کا استعمال کریں۔  
 ۛ پھل آنے پر آبپاشی ضروری ہے۔ لہذا موسم کی کیفیت کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے آبپاشی 20 دن کے وقفے سے کریں۔  
 ۛ اپریل کے دوران پودوں میں پھل بن جانے پر سونا یوریا 3/4 کلوگرام فی پودا تنے سے 2 فٹ دور اور گھیر کے نیچے ڈال کر آبپاشی کریں۔  
 ۛ آم کے درخت میں اگر کسی وجہ سے پھول دیر سے نکل رہے ہوں تو پوٹاشیم نائٹریٹ کا مزید ایک سپرے کریں۔  
 ۛ پھولوں کے موسم میں اگر بارش زیادہ ہو جائے اور ہوا میں نمی کا تناسب 80 فیصد 12 گھنٹے سے زیادہ رہے تو پھپھوندی کش زہر کا سپرے لازمی کریں۔

Source: Zarat nama, Government of Punjab (Farmers' Advisory)  
 Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (Farmers' Advisory Service)

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