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AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK



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



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Harvesting/threshing of wheat and other Rabi crops and sowing of Kharif crops especially cotton and maize were the major field activities during the month. Operations of chemical spraying against pest attacks on fruit orchards and irrigation practices as per requirement were also in progress during the month. Harvesting/threshing of wheat has been disturbed in particular areas of the upper half due to rains, hailing and windstorms etc.

It is expected that, slightly below normal rains may occur in most of the agricultural plains of the county especially over the northeastern Punjab. However, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan may receive above normal rains. However, warmer and more humid condition are expected in the coming monsoon season may provide conducive environment for Locust in Sindh, adjoining areas of Balochistan and Punjab as well as lower KP.

As per the 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.



CURRENT CROP SITUATION

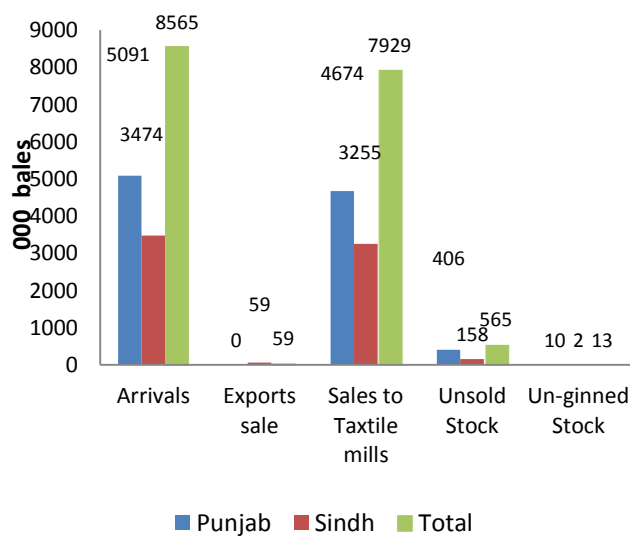
1. Wheat Crop

In Punjab, harvesting and threshing of wheat crop is almost completed in irrigated plains and farmers have sowed cotton crop. However, it is in process particularly in areas of the upper half, the harvesting/threshing of wheat has been disturbed due to rains, hailing and windstorms etc. Threshing of wheat crop is almost completed throughout the Sindh province and good yield is expected. Overall growth and development of wheat crop in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is reported satisfactory. The crop is growing at maturity stage. No pest attack has been reported so far on the crop. In Baluchistan, wheat crop is at maturity/full maturity and its growth is generally reported satisfactory. In Gilgit-Baltistan, the growth of wheat crop is in progress and is reported satisfactory. The crop is at stem extension/shooting stage in most of the regions.

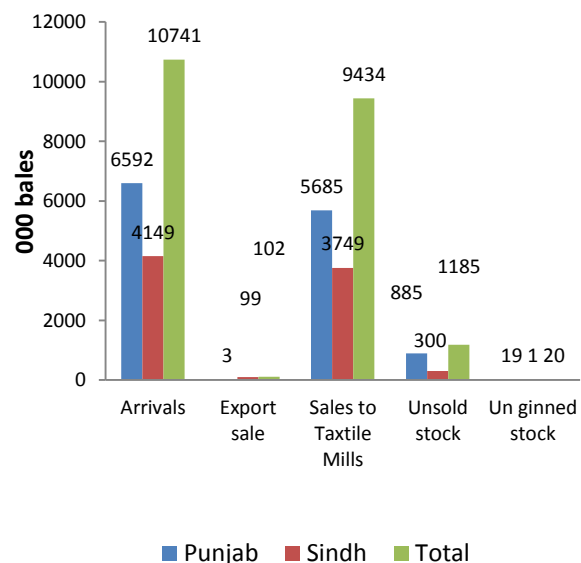
2. Cotton

Cotton arrivals into ginning factories stood at 8.571 million bales as on 15th March 2020, as reported by Pakistan Cotton Ginner's Association (PCGA). It indicates a decline of 20.4% over the previous season. Volume of crop both in Punjab and Sindh witnessed decrease of 22.9% to 5.097 million bales and 16.3% to 3.474 million bales, respectively. Better initiatives have been taken by the Federal Government to increase the area of cotton in the next year. To increase the production of cotton, pure seed will be supplied to farmers and complete measures will be taken to combat with pest attack like white fly and pink boll worm.

Cotton Arrival, 2019-20



Cotton arrival 2018-19





For the assessment of indicative cotton price, high volume committee has been constituted by the Government to safeguard the interest of farmers; resulting sowing area will be increased by announcement of support price.

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 Pakhtunkwa	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.

Source: Pakistan Cotton Central Committee

3. Oilseed & Lentil

In Punjab, Harvesting and threshing of oilseed, Gram and Lentil is also in progress and better yield is expected during the season. In Sindh, Castor oil is growing satisfactory and its picking is in progress. Safflower is near to maturity stage and its growth has reported well. Threshing of linseed has been reported in progress. Sunflower is growing well and is reported at flowering stage.

Production Plan for Oilseed 2019-20:

Crop	Province	Proposed Targets (2019-20)		
		Area(000 ha)	Production (000 tones)	Yield (kg/ha)
Canola	Punjab	17.6	29.7	1685
	Sindh	2.85	3.43	1206
	KP	0.44	0.30	622
	Balochsitan	2.2	1.4	676
	Pakistan	23	35	
Sunflower	Punjab	30	59.43	1981
	Sindh	75	77	1028
	KP	1.2	1.9	1598
	Balochsitan	2.1	3.1	1500
	Pakistan	108	141	
Mustard	Punjab	176	257	1456
	Sindh	46	48	1056
	KP	12	5.47	468
	Balochsitan	15	11	753
	Pakistan	249	322	

4. Horticulture

- In Punjab, growth of seasonal vegetables is reported satisfactory and picking of early grown varieties is in progress. Growth of fruit orchards including mangos is reported satisfactory. Mango orchards are reported mostly at fruit formation stage.
- In Sindh, Growth of summer vegetables is reported satisfactory and their picking is in full swing. Mangoes are growing at full fruit formation stage. However gusty wind has been reported in the last days of this month, which damaged the orchards to some extent.
- In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Growth of summer vegetables is reported satisfactory and their picking is in full swing. Mangoes are growing at full fruit formation stage.
- In Balochistan, Growth of summer vegetables is reported satisfactory and their picking is in full swing. Mangoes are growing at full fruit formation stage. However gusty wind was reported in the last days of this month have damaged the orchards to some extent.
- The growth of seasonal orchards and vegetables is also reported satisfactory in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Source: <http://namc.pmd.gov.pk/>

MARKETING OF CROPS

Crop	Marketing
Onion	It is grown in all four provinces and remained available in market whole year. Nowadays, onion is being supplied from Sindh Province to other parts of the country.
Potato	It is also grown in all provinces and is being supplied from Punjab province
Tomato	It is also grown in all provinces and is being supplied from Sindh Province.
Red Chili	It is mostly grown in Southern Punjab and Sindh. Nowadays, chili is being supplied in markets from Sindh province.

Source: *Agriculture Marketing Roundup, Gov. of Punjab*

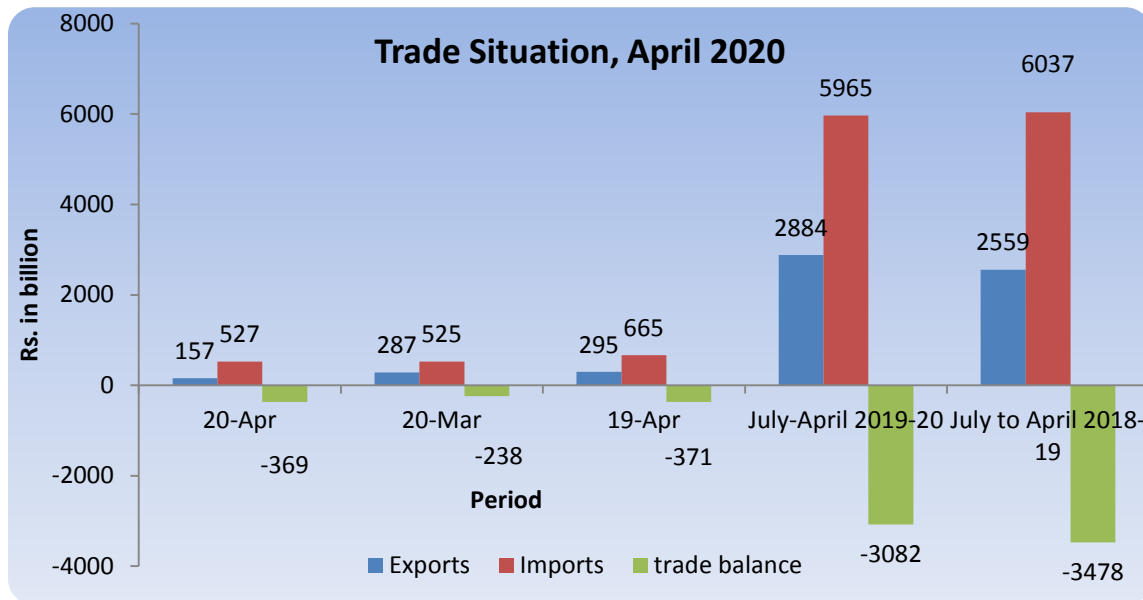
TRADE SITUATION

Exports

- According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, exports from Pakistan during April, 2020 amounted to Rs. 157,412 million (provisional) as against Rs. 287,411 million in March, 2020 and Rs. 294,883 million during April, 2019 showing a decrease of 45.23% over March, 2020 and of 46.62% over April, 2019.
- Exports during July– April, 2019-20 totaled Rs. 2,883,787 million (provisional) as against Rs. 2,558,582 million during the corresponding period of last year showing an increase of 12.71%.

Imports

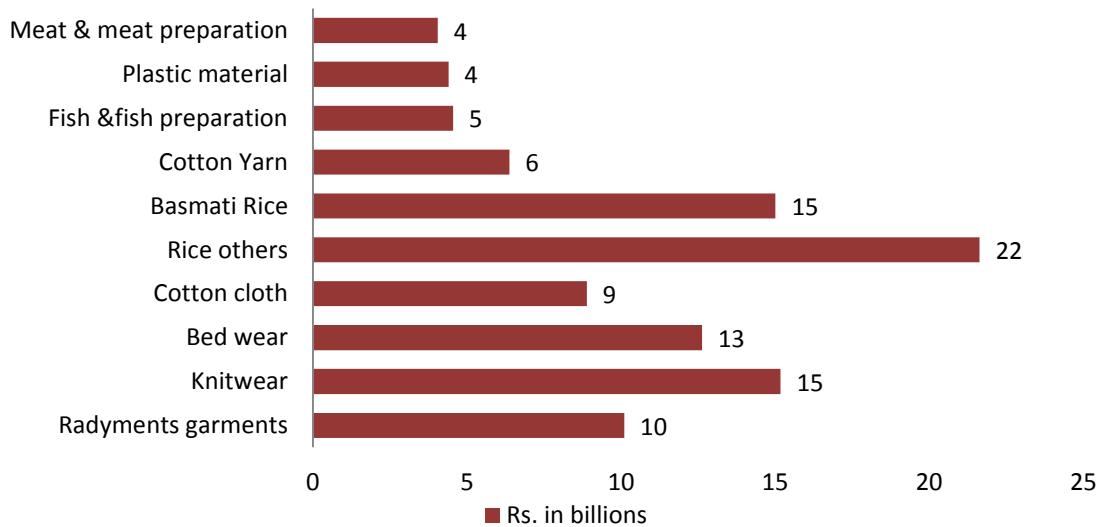
- Imports into Pakistan during April, 2020 amounted to Rs. 526,880 million (provisional) as against Rs. 525,410 million (provisional) in March, 2020 and Rs. 665,418 million during April 2019 showing an increase of 0.28% over March, 2020 but a decrease of 20.82% over April 2019.
- Imports during July – April, 2019 - 2020 totaled Rs. 5,965,492 million (provisional) as against Rs. 6,036,561 million during the corresponding period of last year showing a decrease of 1.18%.



Note: Provisional figures provided by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

- Main commodities of exports during April, 2020 were Rice others (Rs. 21,663 million), Knitwear (Rs. 15,173 million), Basmati rice (Rs. 15,012 million), Bed wear (Rs. 12,628 million), Readymade garments (Rs. 10,096 million), Cotton cloth (Rs. 8,888 million), Cotton Yarn (Rs. 6,376 million), Fish & Fish Preparation (Rs. 4,554 million), Plastic materials (Rs. 4,402 million) and Meat and meat preparations (Rs. 4,047 million).

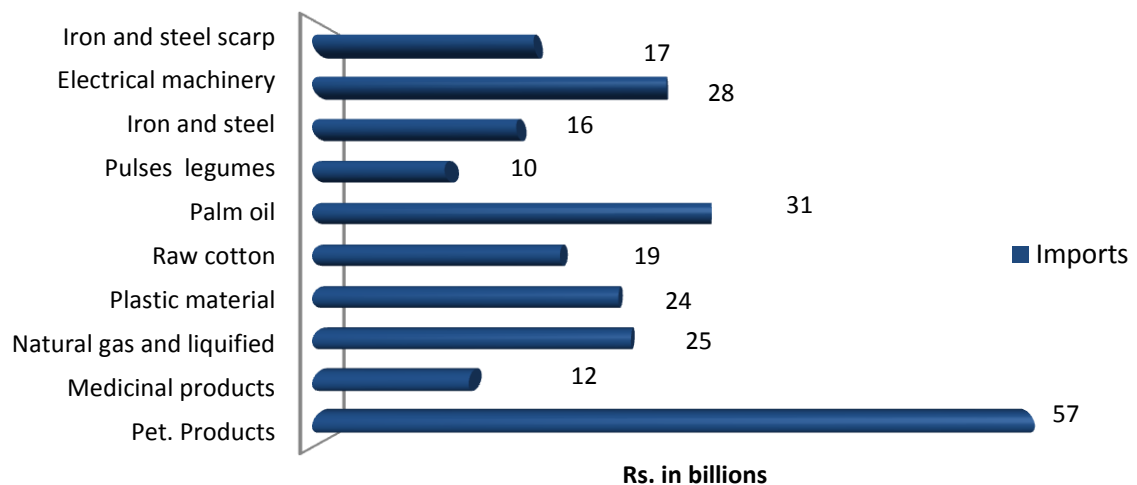
Major Exports, April 2020



Note: Provisional figures provided by PBS

- Main commodities of imports during April, 2020 were Petroleum products (Rs. 56,508 million), Palm Oil (Rs. 31,208 million), Electrical machinery and apparatus (Rs. 27,667 million), Natural gas, liquefied (Rs. 24,896 million), Plastic Materials (Rs. 23,910 million), Raw cotton (Rs. 19,354 million), Iron and steel Scarp (Rs. 17,300 million) Iron and Steel (Rs. 15,936 million), Medicinal products (Rs. 12,222 million) and Pulses (Leguminous vegetables) (Rs. 10,340 million).

Main Imports, April 2020



Note: Provisional figures provided by PBS



WEATHER SITUATION

Rainfall

April and May are normally observed as drier months before onset of monsoon period. According to PMD, moderate to heavy rainfall events were reported at a few places in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, upper Punjab and AJK while rest of the country i.e. Gilgit Baltistan, south Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan received light rainfall. Overall in the distribution of rainfall occurred in last month in the country is given below. The maximum number of rainy days in the country observed at Malam Jabba as 15 days followed by 14 days at Peshawar, Saidu Sharif, Gilgit and Murree each.

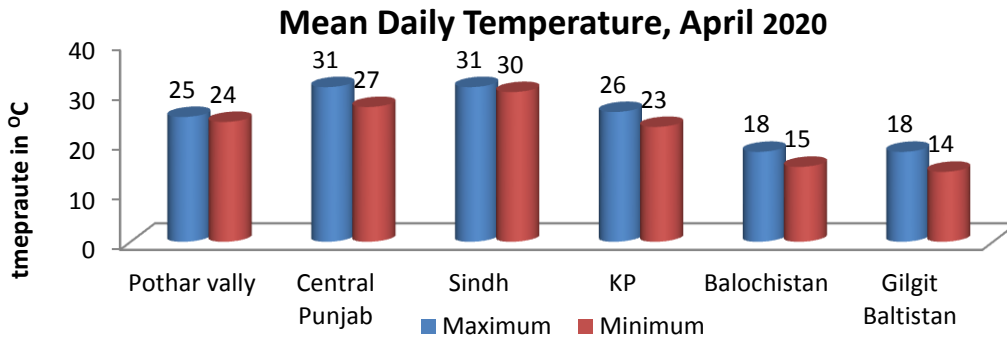
Table:1					
Sr. No.	Station	Rainfall (mm)	Sr. No.	Station	Rainfall (mm)
1	Malamjabba	278.0	11	Tandali	137.2
2	Dir	215.8	12	Buner	136.6
3	Kalam	214.5	13	Bandi Abbaspur	133.5
4	Kakul	208.0	14	Brarkot	131.5
5	Saidu sharif	197.2	15	Muzaffarabad Airport	131.0
6	Murree	195.4	16	Haraman	130.4
7	Chakothei	154.8	17	Garhi Dupatta	127.0
8	Parachinar	144.0	18	Kamra	126.0
9	Chattar Kalas	143.0	19	Mirkhani	124.8
10	Balakot	138.4	20	Rawalakot	124.5

Humidity

The mean daily Relative Humidity (R.H) was observed normal to below normal in most of the agriculture plains of the country except Rawalpindi, Lahore and Faisalabad in Punjab, D. I. Khan in Lower KP and Tandojam in Lower Sindh where it was observed above normal. Maximum value of mean R. H observed as 62% at Rawalpindi and D. I. Khan while minimum value observed as 37% at Rohri, Quetta and Gilgit.

Temperature

Normal to above by 5 to 10°C mean daily temperature was reported by PMD in various plains of the country. Brief detail of the maximum and minimum temperature is shown below:



Solar Radiation and Wind Regime

Total bright sunshine hours and solar radiation intensity remained normal to below normal in most of the agricultural plains except D. I. Khan in lower KP, Jhelum in Potohar Region, Rohri in upper Sindh and Gilgit where it observed a slightly above normal. Mean wind speed throughout agricultural plains of the country reached up to 06 km/h (recorded at Tandojam and Quetta) with mainly North wards direction

Normally Expected Weather during May, 2020

It is expected that, slightly below normal rains may occur in most of the agricultural plains of the county especially over the northeastern Punjab. However, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan may receive above normal rains. Air temperature may remain 2-3°C above normal over the lower half of the country particularly Sindh and lower Baluchistan. Whereas, normal temperature may be shown in the upper half especially northwestern Punjab, northern Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Duration of bright sunshine hours may increase considerably all over the country due to clear sky and higher solar angle. The duration may increase to 9.5-11 hrs/day. Direction of wind would be northwest to north with 6 km/hour speed over the plains of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The intensity of solar radiation may range from 21 MJ/M²/day to 24 MJ/M²/day over most of the agricultural plains of the country.

DROUGHT SITUATION

According to PMD, the month of April was fairly good for drought prone areas of Baluchistan, giving good relief over there (shown in figures), but not for few places in Sindh, as reported by PMD. However, rains with hailstorm were also reported at isolated places in KP that damaged the standing crops.

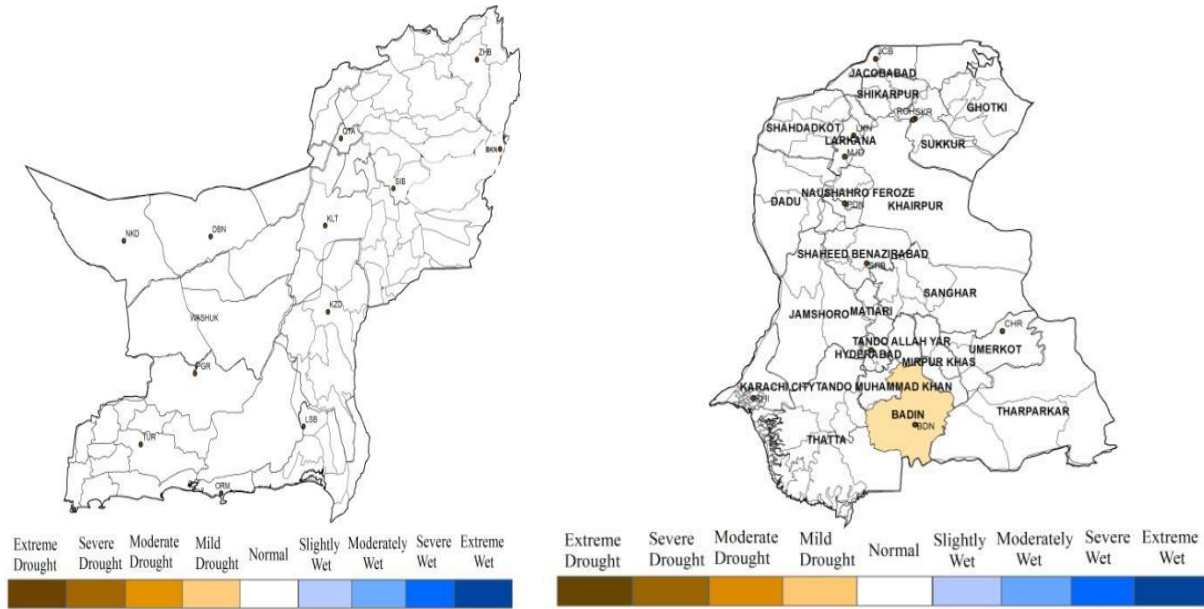


Fig. Drought Condition in Balochistan and Sindh Provinces

WATER SITUATION

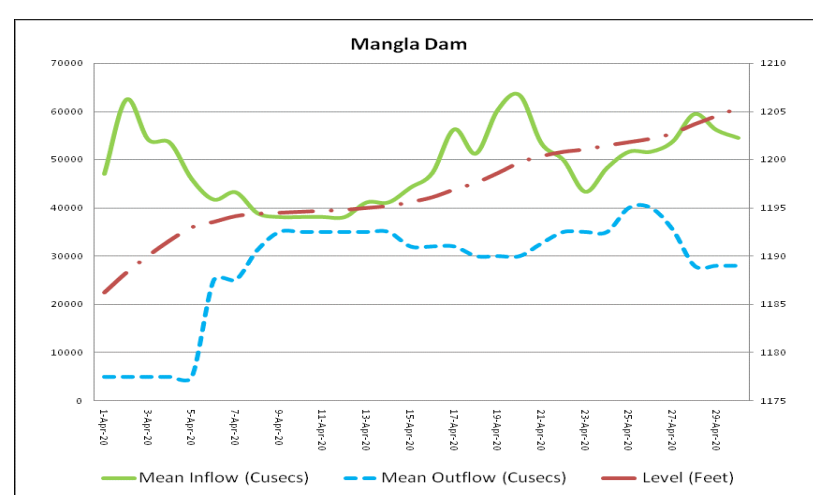
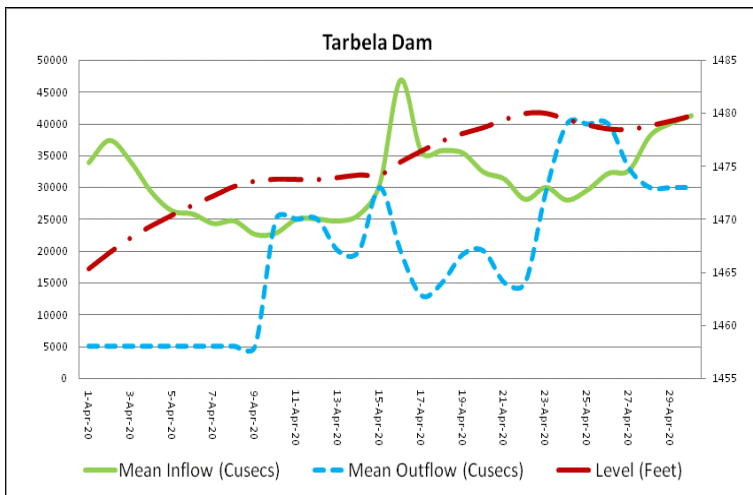
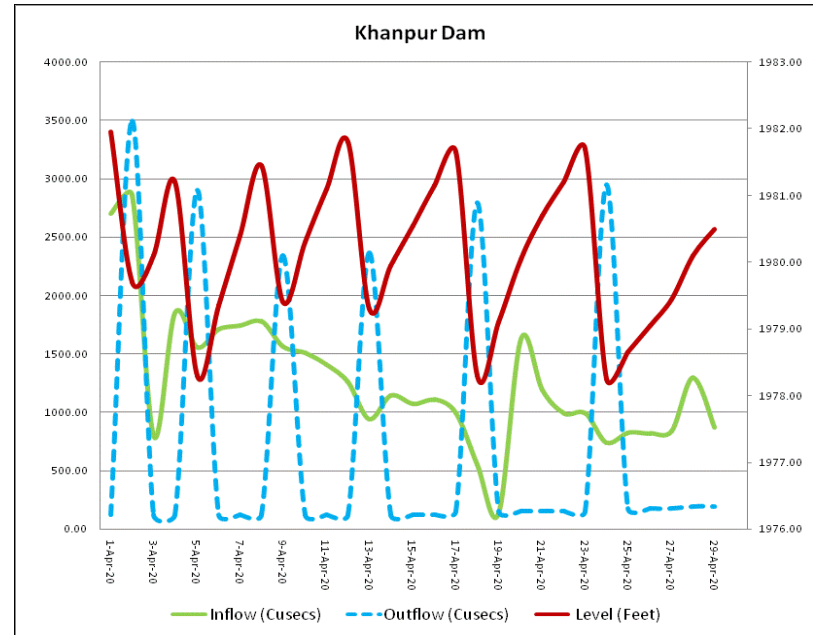
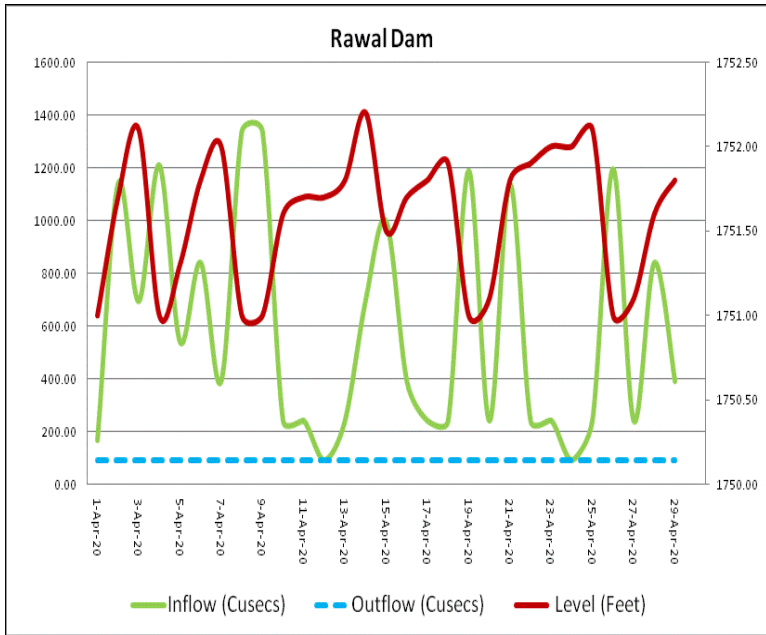
During the month of April 2020, an increasing trend in inflow and water level has been observed in Terbela and Mangla dams. Water inflow, outflow and level of Rawal, Khanpur, Tarbela and Mangla dams are shown in Figures below:

In cusecs

Barrages	Mean Inflow/U/S Discharge	Mean Outflow/D/S Discharge
Guddu	96,257	83,757
Chashma	131,322	130,000
Taunsa	134,818	118,190
Kalabagh	113,738	106,438
Panjnad	23,697	9,197
Sukkur	72,520	32,540
Kotri	16,035	0

Note: data as on 19.05.2020

Source: www.pakirsa.gov.pk





DESERT LOCUST SITUATION

Desert Locust Situation Update

According to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Update dated 13 May 2020, the current situation remains extremely alarming. New swarms from current breeding will form from mid-June onwards, coinciding with the start of the harvest. At this time, there is a risk that swarms will migrate to the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. In Pakistan, adult groups are migrating to the Indian border from breeding areas in Baluchistan and the Indus Valley where hopper groups are present as well as in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Control operations are underway in all affected provinces of Pakistan.

Impact of weather on Locust Growth

Tropical type weather is most favorable for locust growth. Deserts with cool nights and warm days provide conducive environment for the growth of locust. Based on present run of climate models, above-normal rainfall is most likely over the south-eastern part (Sindh province and surrounding area) while below normal rainfall over Gilgit-Baltistan and adjoining areas of upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Normal rainfall is likely in rest of the country. The expected warmer and more humid condition in the coming monsoon season may provide conducive environment for Locust in Sindh, adjoining areas of Balochistan and Punjab as well as lower KP.

Control Measures

In Pakistan, locusts are being combated by application of various insecticides like Lambda-cyhalothrin, Chlorpyrifos, Bifenthrin, etc on crops in desert areas. These chemicals kill locust within a few minutes but side effects are also appeared on animals, humans and environment. In this regard, there is need to utilize such approach, which renders the negative impacts on society but showed positive effects on locust.

A basic prerequisite in controlling this insect pest is a national survey and training of the staff which is involved. The pesticides are applied when and where absolutely needed. Special care should be taken to avoid using chemical pesticides in ecologically or economically sensitive areas.

Use of New Technologies to Combat Locust

- Barrier treatment
- Bait Application
- Use of Biological insecticides

Barrier treatment

In this method, only a small portion of the infested area is sprayed. A small number of trees and cultivated crops are sprayed with effective pesticides on which locust can feed. In this method money and environment, both can be saved.



Bait Application

In this method, bait is prepared for the nymphal stage of Locust and insecticide is mixed in this bait. When the eggs hatch and nymphs come out from the soil, they need to feed for development and growth, so when these nymphs feed on treated baits, they will kill.

Use of Biological insecticides

The use of biological insecticides is another option for controlling the locust. The biological pesticides like *Beauveria bassiana* and *Metarhizium anisopliae* are available in markets and being used for combating locust at commercial level. These are basically soil inhabiting fungus and attacks on most insects to feed. They attach with the bodies of insects, develop its hypha which penetrates in the insect body, suck the hemolymph insides then produce further conidia by killing the insect.

A commercial formulation of *Metarhizium anisopliae* “Muscle” has been tested against locust for several years in Africa and found to be very effective. A similar product, Green Guard is being used on Desert Locust in Australia. Because of their slow mode of action, these are most effective in the preventive control system, where crops are not directly threatened and can be used in sensitive ecosystems such as national parks and nature conservative areas. Hence, it is suggested that Government may import these bio pesticides and provide stakeholders for the control of Desert Locust.

Locust as a Diet for Poultry

As locusts are a rich source of protein, they can be used as an important ingredient in poultry and animal meals. Private poultry and animal meal associations can buy the locusts collected by the local community on the spot for meal production. This way, locusts will be controlled in a highly sustainable and chemical-free operation

Use of Drones

Drones are small jet that can carry liters of pesticides. The drones can be equipped with high definition visual sensors and thermal cameras. They can map the potential outbreak areas, monitor vegetation and groups of gathering locusts. The drones will transmit their data instantly. This technology can be used to apply pesticides on swarms of locust. China has agreed to assist Pakistan to combat the menace of locust in various parts of the country with \$5 million technical support besides providing 50 drones and 300,000 liters of pesticides to carry out spray in affected areas of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab.

Use of Natural Enemies

The locust has natural enemies such as predatory wasps and flies, birds and reptiles



Weather Based Criteria for Locust Spread/Prediction

Parameters	Threshold	Remarks
Rainfall (mm)	> 25 mm each in last two months	Favorable for laying Eggs
Air Temperature	20-35 °C	Favorable for Egg and Hopper development
Soil Temperature (Shallow Depths)	> 35 °C	Generally, favorable for egg development
Wind Speed (Knots)	<13,6 Knots for Adults and <19,4 Knots for Swarm to take off	Favorable for Adults to take off. Favorable for Swarm to take off

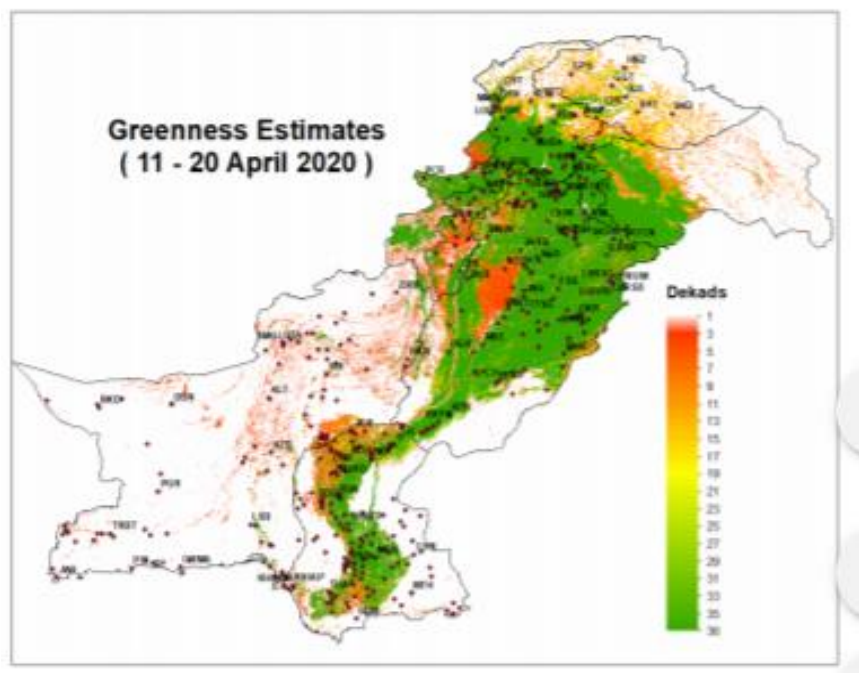
Greenness Estimates to Monitor Desert Locust

A critical factor in Locust control is areas which have recently transitioned from barren land to vegetation. Greenness is the number of dekads (approximately ten days) passed since vegetation onset. Thus, greenness is a measure which highlights this critical transition.

The warmer colours (red, orange, yellow) indicate annual vegetation that has just recently emerged (dekads 1-3) and this is preferred by Desert Locust. Dense Green colours (dekads 7 and beyond) are most likely areas of perennial vegetation (oasis, forests, etc.) that are not particularly favorable for Desert Locust.

The methodology allows a robust and reliable discrimination between vegetation and no vegetation. It

identifies efficiently the vegetation close to the onset and avoids the classic commission errors (i.e., detecting vegetation when there is no vegetation on the ground).



FERTILIZER OFF-TAKE SITUATION

As per the 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 were 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.

CROP CALENDAR

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 MONTHLY PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020

Sr. No.	Description	Unit	Average Prices			%change Apr 20 over	
			Apr 20	Mar 20	Apr 19	Mar 20	Apr 19
1	Wheat Flour Bag	20 Kg	884.51	890.56	772.99	-0.68	14.43
2	Rice Basmati Broken - Average Quality	1 Kg	82.58	82.03	77.36	0.67	6.75
3	Rice IRRI-6/9 (Sindh/Punjab)	1 Kg	65.38	62.75	57.46	4.19	13.78
4	Bread plain (Small Size)	Each	50.16	49.40	41.56	1.54	20.69
5	Beef with Bone (Average Quality)	1 Kg	444.99	436.09	403.29	2.04	10.34
6	Mutton (Average Quality)	1 Kg	918.99	905.17	828.12	1.53	10.97
7	Chicken Farm Broiler (Live)	1 Kg	140.64	154.55	191.11	-9.00	-26.41
8	Milk fresh (Un-boiled)	1 Ltr	92.07	94.75	88.40	-2.83	4.15
10	Powdered Milk NIDO 390 gm Polyba	Each	463.08	462.04	402.87	0.23	14.95
11	Eggs Hen (Farm)	1 Dozen	110.94	105.00	84.57	5.66	31.18
12	Mustard Oil (Average Quality)	1 Kg	216.98	218.45	190.90	-0.67	13.66
13	Cooking Oil DALDA or Other Similar B	Each	1280.74	1298.22	1050.92	-1.35	21.87
14	Vegetable Ghee DALDA/HABIB 2.5 kg	Each	643.89	653.09	501.86	-1.41	28.30
15	Vegetable Ghee DALDA/HABIB or Ot	Each	248.11	251.41	191.68	-1.31	29.44
16	Bananas (Kela) Local	1 Dozen	92.75	86.12	92.10	7.70	0.71
17	Pulse Masoor (Washed)	1 Kg	170.76	141.48	120.61	20.70	41.58
18	Pulse Moong (Washed)	1 Kg	277.88	235.77	144.65	17.86	92.11
19	Pulse Mash (Washed)	1 Kg	245.47	224.22	151.85	9.48	61.65
20	Pulse Gram	1 Kg	160.10	148.95	124.36	7.49	28.74
21	Potatoes	1 Kg	46.96	43.78	21.59	7.26	117.51
22	Onions	1 Kg	55.34	72.09	45.79	-23.23	20.86
23	Tomatoes	1 Kg	29.79	37.52	65.51	-20.60	-54.53
24	Sugar Refined	1 Kg	81.57	80.92	65.64	0.80	24.27
25	Gur (Average Quality)	1 Kg	120.85	118.23	93.14	2.22	29.75
28	Garlic (Lehsun)	1 Kg	292.98	347.86	190.40	-15.78	53.88

Source: <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/>

NEWS & TRENDS

- The China Economic Net has organized a China-Pakistan trade Hotline Cloud Salon with the theme of 'Joint Efforts in Locust Control' on May 20, 2020 as Pakistan's agriculture sector is now suffering from the worst desert locust infestation in 27 years. The seminar is aimed at stressing the urgency of joint efforts to combat locusts and strengthen regular thinking and forward-looking planning. Earlier in March, President Arif Alvi and Chinese President Xi Jinping witnessed the signing of an agreement on strengthening plant disease and insect pest control in Beijing. To assist in dealing with this outbreak, China sent aid of 300,000 litres of pesticides and 50 sets of equipment to Pakistan. The Chinese government delivered the pesticide sprays to the government of Pakistan which it promised late last in April to combat locusts in the country, which are now emerging as a threat to food security. Beijing had promised to provide malathion (insecticide) along with high-efficiency remote sprayers and other equipment to Pakistan in a bid to control the locusts which are affecting a huge area of land in the country. In addition to the sprays, plant protection drones, also included in the assistance package, were sent to the country.
- The tea imports into the country were recorded at \$324,372 million during July-February (2019-20) against the imports of \$ 393,585 million during July-February (2018-19), showing increase of 17.59 percent, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention, here that the trade deficit during the first eight month of the current fiscal year reduced by 26.06 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year.
- PARC has different research Centre under diversified ecological zones to conduct site-specific research on various field crops. Fruits, vegetables etc. Arid Zone Research Centre Dera Ismail Khan is one of the Centers working under PARC. Most recently AZRC, D.I.Khan has developed a new high yielding, disease and drought tolerant wheat variety "AZRC- DERA" This variety was approved in 39th Meeting of Provincial Seed Council held on 23rd April, 2020 under the chairman ship of Minister for Agricultural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Newly released wheat variety AZRC- DERA has quite high yield potential with resistance against yellow and leaf rust diseases. It is highly suitable for rainfed conditions with additional potential character of heat and drought tolerance. Its yield potential is higher than 80monds in irrigated and 35monds in rainfed conditions. The Breeder of this variety Dr. Muhammad Yaqoob claims that the variety will be a breakthrough in wheat production in country. Since the variety was recommended by the Crop Expert Committee KP in Nov 2019, thus AZRC-DERA has been planted on more than 250 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab by the farmers and seed companies. The Director AZRC, Dr. Nouman Latif informed that the seed of AZRC-DERA variety has been multiplied at AZRC Farm, DIKhan and will be available for growers in next planting season. The seed companies have shown greater interest in new wheat variety and purchasing seed from farmers who planted AZRC DERA at their farms. Mr. Muhammad Umair, Dy. Commissioner, Dera Ismail Khan inaugurated the first ever harvesting of this new high yielding wheat variety on his visit at PARC-AZRC, D. I. Khan. While talking on the



occasion, the Dy. Commissioner Dera applauded that efforts of the Scientists of D. I. Khan. What variety “AZRC-Dera” is available for farmers at Wanda Baloch Dera, D.I. Khan. Dr. Attiq-ur-Rehman Rattu, National Coordinator Wheat, PARC is also of the view that newly released wheat variety “AZRC DERA” has high potential and it will increase per acre wheat yield.

Sources:

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- www.pmd.gov.pk
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زرعی سفارشات برائے کسان

موسم خریف کا آغاز ہو گیا ہے، پچھلے سال تقریباً پورے ملک میں گندم اور کپاس کی فصل پر ٹڈی دل کا حملہ غیر معمولی حد تک مشاہدہ میں آیا ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس سال کو رونا جیسی مہلک بیماری کا بھی سامنا ہے۔ لہذا کاشتکاروں کو چاہیے کہ دونوں مشکلات سے نمٹنے کے لیے حکومت پاکستان کی طرف سے جاری کردہ ہدایت پر عمل کرتے ہوئے فصلوں کی کاشت ہو کٹائی کی جائے۔

دھان

☆ فصل کو 20 مئی سے پہلے ہرگز کاشت نہ کریں۔ تاکہ فصل کو تنے کی سنڈی کے حملے سے بچایا جاسکے۔
 ☆ پیڑی کی کاشت کا وقت 20 مئی تا 7 جون برائے موٹی اقسام (اری)، 7 جون تا 25 جون برائے باسنتی اقسام اور 15 جون تا 30 جون برائے شاہین باسنتی ہے جبکہ باہرڈ اقسام کے لیے 20 مئی تا 15 جون ہے۔
 ☆ پیڑی کو پانی کی موجودگی اور زمین کی ساخت کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے بذریعہ کدو، خشک اور راب کے طریقے سے کاشت کریں۔
 ☆ فصل کو بکائی اور پتوں کے بھورے دھبوں والی جیسی بیماریوں سے محفوظ رکھنے کے لیے بیج کو بوائی سے دو ہفتے پہلے پھونڈی کش زہر تھا نیونیٹ میتھائل 2 سے 2.5 گرام فی کلوگرام بیج لگائیں۔
 ☆ دھان کی منظور شدہ موٹی اقسام کے ایس 282، نیاب اری 9، اری 6، کے ایس 133، کے ایس کے 434 اور نیاب 2013 جبکہ باسنتی اقسام سپر باسنتی، باسنتی 515، شاہین باسنتی، پنجاب باسنتی، نیاب باسنتی 2016 اور نور باسنتی باہرڈ اقسام وائے 26، پرائیڈ-1، شہنشاہ 2، پی ایچ بی-71، آرائز سوفٹ اور فائن غیر باسنتی اقسام بی ایس 2 اور پی کے-386 کے بیج کا انتظام کریں۔

کپاس

☆ مرکزی علاقہ جات میں فصل کی کاشت 31 مئی تک جب کہ ثانوی علاقوں میں 15 مئی تک مکمل کر لیں۔
 ☆ کاشت پڑیوں پر مشین یا ہاتھ کی مدد سے کریں اور ڈرل سے لائنوں میں کاشت کی گئی کپاس کو پہلی آپاشی کے بعد پودوں کی ایک لائن چھوڑ کر دوسری لائن میں مٹی چڑھا کر پڑیاں بنا دیں۔
 ☆ محکمہ زراعت کی منظور شدہ بی ٹی اقسام میں چند ایک میں آئی یو بی 13، بی ایس 15، ایف ایچ 142، نیاب 878، ایم این ایچ 886، ایف ایچ 114، ایف ایچ 114، ایف ایچ لالہ زار، این ایس 121، علی اکبر 1802، جی ایس 555، اے جی ایس 777، وی ایچ 259، کے زیڈ 181، سائٹو 178، ستارہ ایم 11، ٹارزن 3، نیاب 545، نیاب 1048 اور نیچے 3 شامل ہیں۔
 ☆ محکمہ زراعت کی سفارش کردہ روایتی اقسام سی آئی ایم-554، سی آئی ایم 608، نیاب 112، نیاب 2008، سائٹو 124، سی آئی ایم 620، ایس ایل ایچ 317، پی ایچ 167، نیچے 115، ایف ایچ 942، نیاب 852، نیاب کرن، سی آریس ایم 38 اور نیاب کاشت کریں۔
 ☆ کھادوں کا متوازن استعمال کے لیے مرکزی علاقہ جات میں کپاس کو 69 کلوگرام نائٹروجن، 35 کلوگرام فاسفورس اور 25 کلوگرام پوناش فی ایکڑ ڈالیں۔ جبکہ ثانوی علاقہ جات میں 58 کلوگرام نائٹروجن، 35 کلوگرام فاسفورس اور 25 کلوگرام پوناش فی ایکڑ ڈالیں۔

گندم

☆ ہمارے ملک میں فصل کی کٹائی کا عمل مئی کے مہینے تک جاری رہتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں تقریباً ہر سال 4 فیصد گندم برداشت و سنبھال کے دوران ضائع ہو جاتی ہے۔ اس لیے گندم کی سنبھال اور ذخیرہ اندوزی کے دوران خصوصی احتیاط کی جائے تاکہ محنت کا ثمر ضائع نہ ہو۔

☆ بارش کے دوران فصل کی کٹائی بند کر دیں اور اس وقت تک دوبارہ نہ شروع کریں جب تک موسم ٹھیک نہ ہو جائے۔

☆ کٹائی کے بعد بھریاں قدرے چھوٹی باندھیں اور کھلو اڑوں کو اس طرح لگائیں کہ سٹوں کا رخ اوپر کی طرف رہے۔ تھریٹنگ کے بعد بیج کو بوریوں میں ڈال کر کسی محفوظ اور صاف جگہ پر سٹور کر کے رکھ دیں۔

کما دا اور بہاریہ مکئی

☆ کما دی بھر پور فصل کے لیے بہاریہ کاشت کوئی ایکڑ 64 انچ اور تمبر کاشتہ فصل کے لیے 80 انچ پانی درکار ہوتا ہے پانی کی کمی فی ایکڑ پیداوار پر برا اثر ڈالتی ہے۔ لہذا 10 سے 12 دن کے وقفہ سے آبیاشی کرتے رہیں۔

☆ مکئی کی فصل کو مناسب وقفہ سے آبیاشی کریں اور آنے پر کسی صورت میں بھی پانی کی کمی نہ آنے دیں اور کھیت کو ہمیشہ تروترا حالت میں رکھیں تاکہ دانہ بننے میں مدد مل سکے۔

☆ مکئی کی فصل کو آبیاشی علاقوں میں 3 اقساط میں ڈالی جانے والی نائٹروجن 3 سے 5 پتے نکلنے پر، 8 سے 10 پتے نکلنے پر اور پھول آنے سے 14 سے 15 دن قبل سفارش کردہ مقدار کے مطابق ضرور استعمال کریں۔

سبزیات و باغات

☆ ٹماٹر کی فصل کو صبح یا شام کے وقت توڑیں اور ان کو ٹھنڈا کرنے کے لیے پانی سے دھولیں تاکہ ان کی تازگی برقرار رہے۔

☆ موسم گرما کی سبزیوں کی جہاں ضرورت ہو گوڈی کریں اور 8 سے 10 دن کے وقفہ سے آبیاشی کریں۔

☆ ترشاوہ پھلوں کے باغات میں نائٹروجنی کھاد (یوریا) بطور دوسری خوراک 1 کلوگرام فی پودا ڈالیں۔ پتوں پر چھوٹے غذائی اجزاء کا سپرے کریں۔

☆ آم کے باغات میں آبیاشی کا وقفہ 20 دن کا رکھیں۔

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

Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (Farmers' Advisory Service)

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