

MOISTURE REGIME DURING APRIL, 2012

Winter rains generally continue from December to March in Pakistan. April, May and June are comparatively drier months in the post monsoon period. However during this April, above normal/significant rains were received in most of the agricultural plains of the country. Normal to above normal rains were reported in lower parts of KPK, central and southern parts of Punjab, agricultural plains of Sindh and northwestern Balochistan represented by Quetta. Whereas below normal rain was reported from upper agricultural Plains of KP, Potohar region of northern Punjab, and Gilgit Baltistan region.

The highest amount of rainfall was reported 359mm in Parachinar, followed by 208mm in Malamjabba, and Kakul each, 179mm in Garhi Doppatta and 152mm in Balakot and so on. Number of rainy days recorded in most of the agricultural planes ranged from 02 to 15days. The maximum number of rainy days in the country was observed 15 at Jhelum and Gilgit, followed by 14 days in D.I.Khan and Kamra and 13 days at Quetta.

The evaporative demand of the atmosphere represented by reference crop evapotranspiration (ET_o) remained normal to below normal in most of the agricultural planes of the country, mainly due to rainy/cloudy atmosphere observed for most of the days during the month.

The mean daily Relative Humidity (R.H) was observed normal to above normal at most of the agricultural plains of the country except Skardu, where it remained slightly below normal due to mostly dry weather observed during the month. Maximum value of mean Relative humidity was observed 57% at Peshawar followed by 51% at Kamra and 50% at Khanpur. The minimum value was observed 33 % at Skardu. Maximum number of days with mean R.H greater or equal to 80% was observed for a single day at Peshawar and Quetta.

From overall analysis, it is evident that above normal/satisfactory rains were received in most of the agricultural planes of the country during the month due to which wheat crop harvesting/maturity has delayed in most of the agricultural plains of the country. The rains however have put positive impact on rainfed crops in the northern hilly areas of the country. Overall dry weather observed in March and rainy month of April negatively affected wheat crop growth and development in most of the agricultural areas of the country except Sindh, where harvesting/threshing has been almost completed in March. But the rains received in April may put positive impact on coming Kharif crops especially sugarcane at early growing stages.

MOISTURE REGIME DURING APRIL, 2012

STATION	PRECIPITATION (MM)			REFERENCE CROP EVAPOTRANSPIR- ATION (ET _o) (MM/DAY)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
	TOTAL	No. OF DAYS	OF ≥ 5 MM/DAY		MEAN	No. OF DAYS WITH MEAN R.H ≥ 80%
PESHAWAR	40.3 (48.9)	11	31.8	3.5 (4.4)	57 (52)	01
D.I. KHAN	74.6 (21.7)	14	63.9	4.3 (5.4)	46 (46)	00
KAMRA	70.0 ---	14	57.0	--- ---	51 ---	00
RAWALPINDI	26.8 (61.8)	09	19.5	3.7 (4.9)	46 (46)	00
JHELUM	17.8 (36.6)	15	6.0	4.4 (5.3)	43 (42)	00
SARGODHA	17.7 (29.5)	11	17.7	4.2 (5.4)	48 (43)	00
LAHORE	49.4 (19.7)	11	45.5	4.7 (5.5)	43 (38)	00
FAISALABAD	35.5 (16.9)	09	30.2	4.8 (5.4)	46 (47)	00
MULTAN	20.6 (12.9)	11	14.6	4.8 (5.6)	44 (40)	00
KHAN PUR	22.3 (2.8)	05	16.0	5.3 (5.7)	50 (35)	00
QUETTA	90.2 (28.3)	13	77.8	4.2 (4.6)	43 (49)	01
ROHRI	5.0 (1.5)	03	0.0	5.8 (6.0)	35 (35)	00
TANDOJAM	7.0 (5.8)	02	0.0	5.4 (6.4)	47 (42)	00
GILGIT	11.3 (23.0)	15	5.4	3.6 (3.5)	43 (40)	00
SKARDU	2.0 (26.3)	02	0.0	3.3 (3.7)	33 (36)	00