

MOISTURE REGIME DURING MAY, 2012

May is considered as one of hot/warm and dry month in Pakistan. During this May, mostly below normal rains were reported from the agricultural plains of the country except upper plain areas of KP where rainfall was reported above normal. Due to this below normal rainfall in these areas, moisture content in root zone has decreased much which may put negative effect on standing and coming Kharif crops. Farmers are also facing problems in sowing Kharif crops in areas where there is shortage of irrigated water.

The highest amount of rainfall reported in the month was 125 mm in Parachinar, followed by 112mm in Kalam, 84mm in Malam Jabba, 65mm in Dir and 56mm in Muzaffarabad. Number of rainy days recorded in the country ranged from 1 to 17. Maximum number of rainy days was recorded (17 days) in Gilgit.

The evaporative demand of the atmosphere represented by reference crop evapotranspiration (ET_o) remained mostly normal to below normal in the agricultural plains except Skardu in Gilgit Baltistan where it was observed above normal. This below normal trend of ET_o is mainly due to comparatively more number of cloudy days than previous seasons. Highest value of reference crop evapotranspiration was estimated in Tandojam which is due to the dry and hot climatic condition of the region in this month.

The mean daily Relative Humidity (R.H) also showed mixed trend in the country. It remained above normal in the upper plains of Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa, Gilgit in Gilgit Baltistan region, Khanpur division in southern plains of Punjab and lower agricultural plains of Sindh represented by Tandojam while it was reported normal to below normal in lower parts of Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa, most of central and southern agricultural plains of Punjab, high elevated regions of Balochistan represented by Quetta and upper parts of Sindh represented by Rohri. Maximum value of mean Relative Humidity was observed 61% at Gilgit followed by 50% at Tandojam, 35% at Khanpur and Rawalpindi division each while the minimum value was observed at Quetta due to its dry climate in this month. Number of days with mean R.H greater or equal to 80% was observed nil during the month.

Below normal ETo and above normal relative humidity in the areas mentioned above are in conformity with each other producing favorable conditions for crops in these areas. However, due to below normal R.H and above normal ETo in agricultural plains of the country especially in Punjab and Sindh, Kharif crops in these areas may come under water/moisture stress conditions which may negatively affect their normal growth/yield in coming hot days of June. Farmers are therefore advised to make best use of available water resources to meet water demand of the crops in these regions.

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STATION	PRECIPITATION (MM)			REFERENCE CROP EVAPOTRANSPIR- ATION (E _{To}) (MM/DAY)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
	TOTAL	No. OF DAYS	OF ≥ 5 MM/DAY		MEAN	No. OF DAYS WITH MEAN R.H ≥ 80%
PESHAWAR	31.5 (27.0)	10	24.0	4.4 (6.5)	44 (37)	00
D.I. KHAN	2.0 (17.2)	06	0.0	5.6 (6.7)	33 (37)	00
KAMRA	10.0 -----	13	7.0	--- ---	35 ---	00
RAWALPINDI	16.2 (39.2)	05	8.0	5.1 (6.3)	35 (34)	00
JHELUM	19.1 (31.8)	07	13.4	5.8 (6.6)	28 (33)	00
SARGODHA	2.9 (21.1)	06	0.0	5.3 (6.7)	34 (35)	00
LAHORE	0.2 (22.4)	03	0.0	5.5 (6.8)	27 (32)	00
FAISALABAD	TR (16.2)	03	0.0	6.5 (6.7)	29 (37)	00
MULTAN	2.5 (9.8)	04	0.0	5.7 (7.0)	31 (33)	00
KHAN PUR	4.0 (5.1)	01	0.0	6.9 (7.0)	35 (33)	00
QUETTA	0.7 (6.0)	05	0.0	5.7 (5.9)	23 (37)	00
ROHRI	TR (4.0)	02	0.0	6.5 (7.3)	29 (35)	00
TANDOJAM	0.0 (3.5)	00	00	7.0 (8.2)	50 (47)	00
GILGIT	18.4 (25.3)	17	18.4	4.4 (4.3)	61 (38)	00
SKARDU	4.0 (27.0)	03	0.0	5.4 (4.8)	33 (37)	00