

MOISTURE REGIME DURING JULY, 2012

July remains generally hot and wet in Pakistan. During this July, in general, the moisture condition of soil and atmosphere remained unsatisfactory in most of the agricultural planes of the country due to below normal rainfall received in most parts of the country, which may produce stress conditions if normal to above normal rains not received in the month of August.

Rainfall remained above normal in the agricultural planes of lower KP and Sargodha and Khanpur in Punjab. Whereas rainfall remained below normal in remaining most of the agricultural plains of KP, Punjab, GB, Sindh and Balochistan.

The highest amount of rainfall reported in the month was 263 mm in Kotli followed by 254mm in Sialkot, 215mm in Jhelum, 167mm in Rawalakot and 163mm in Muzaffarabad.

Number of rainy days recorded in agricultural plains of the country ranged from 1 to 13. Maximum number of rainy days was recorded (13 days) in Jhelum followed by 10 days in Lahore.

The evaporative demand of the atmosphere represented by reference crop evapotranspiration (ET_o) remained normal to below normal in the agricultural planes of the country. The highest value of ET_o was estimated in high elevated agricultural planes of Balochistan represented by Quetta due to dry weather for most of the days during the month.

The mean daily Relative Humidity (R.H) remained normal to below normal in most of the agricultural planes of the country except Sargodha in central Punjab, Khanpur in southern Punjab and Gilgit in GB region where it was observed above normal. Maximum value of mean Relative humidity was observed 61% at Tandojam, followed by 60% at Sargodha and 57% at D.I. Khan and Jhelum each. Maximum number of days with mean R.H greater or equal to 80% was observed for a single day Sargodha.

The combined impact of below normal relative humidity along with mostly dry weather observed during the month has produced moisture deficiency in some areas especially in rainfed areas. However coming monsoon rains may help to bring normal moisture condition for standing crops in the coming monsoon season. However hot and wet conditions sometime favor pests attack on standing crops, especially in sugarcane and cotton growing areas. Reports of pest's attacks have already been reported on cotton in certain areas. Therefore farmers must be careful about timely and proper use of pesticides to avoid/minimize such losses during monsoon season.

Farmers of the cotton growing areas should also be careful about the bad effects of stagnant water in the fields during monsoon season, which ultimately reduces/stops the normal growth of cotton plant.

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STATION	PRECIPITATION (MM)			REFERENCE CROP EVAPOTRANSPIR- ATION (ETo) (MM/DAY)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
	TOTAL	No. OF DAYS	OF ≥ 5 MM/DAY		MEAN	No. OF DAYS WITH MEAN R.H ≥ 80%
PESHAWAR	TR (42.3)	02	0.0	4.9 (7.7)	52 (55)	00
D.I. KHAN	81.7 (60.8)	03	81.7	5.5 (6.2)	57 (59)	00
KAMRA	122.0 ---	07	116.0	--- ---	43 ---	00
RAWALPINDI	76.9 (267.0)	08	63.7	5.3 (6.7)	49 (61)	00
JHELUM	215.6 (237.3)	13	215.4	5.2 (4.7)	57 (63)	00
SARGODHA	135.7 (108.2)	09	70.8	4.9 (6.1)	60 (59)	01
LAHORE	37.7 (202.1)	10	24.6	5.2 (4.7)	57 (63)	00
FAISALABAD	63.0 (115.0)	04	36.0	5.8 (6.1)	56 (61)	00
MULTAN	37.4 (61.3)	04	16.2	6.1 (7.3)	54 (56)	00
KHAN PUR	33.6 (27.5)	02	33.6	5.6 (7.3)	56 (53)	00
QUETTA	0.0 (12.7)	00	0.0	6.5 (7.4)	25 (41)	00
ROHRI	0.0 (25.7)	00	0.0	6.3 (6.4)	47 (55)	00
TANDOJAM	1.0 (41.8)	01	0.0	5.5 (5.5)	61 (72)	00
GILGIT	1.1 (15.6)	09	0.0	5.5 (5.1)	42 (38)	00
SKARDU	TR (9.1)	01	0.0	5.2 (4.9)	34 (35)	00