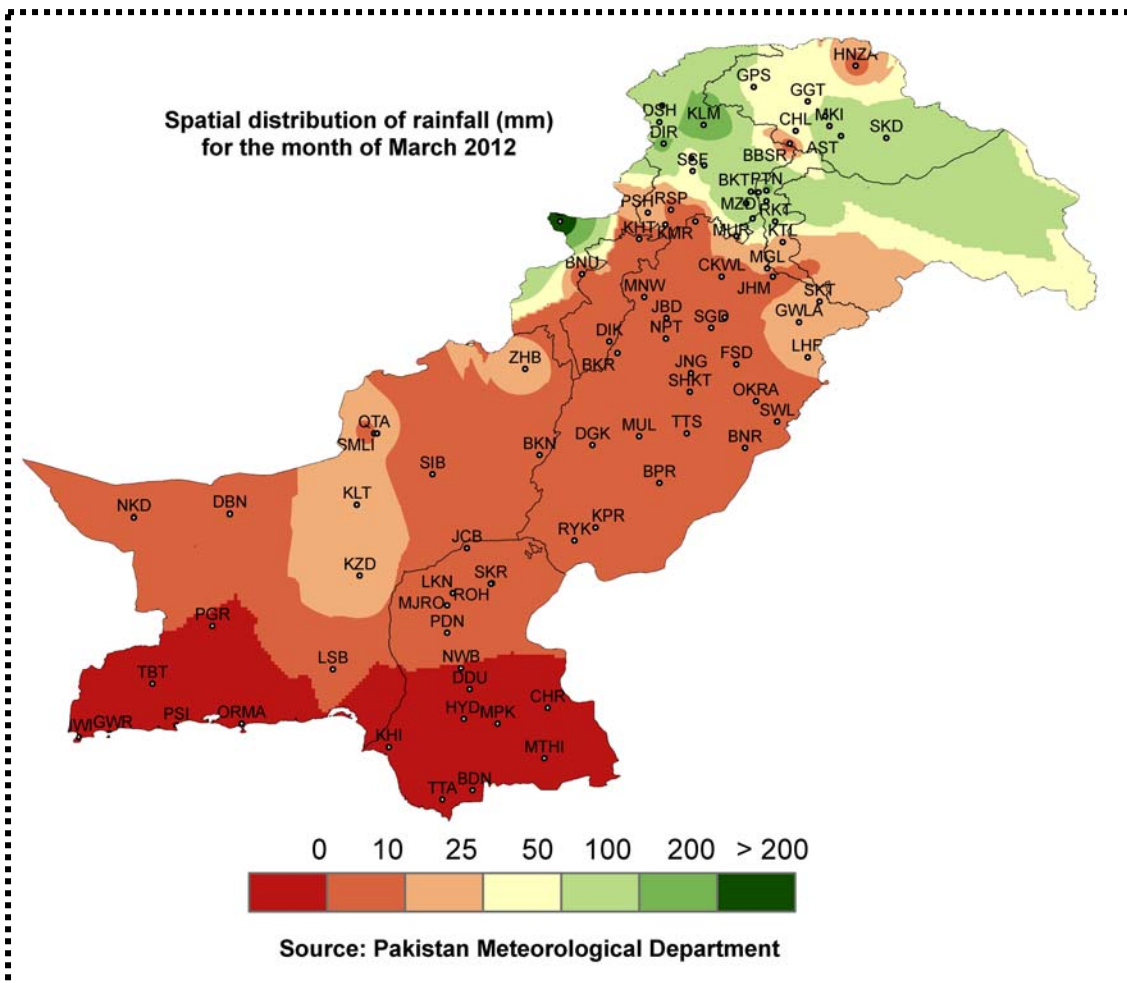


WEATHER SUMMARY DURING MARCH, 2012

Two to Three weak westerly waves passed across the country during the month of March. Due to which light to moderate was reported from the agricultural plains of the country during the month. Dust storms with gusty winds were also reported in most of the agricultural plains of the country during the month.

Chief amount of rainfall (mm) during the month:

Station	Amount of rainfall received (mm)	Station	Amount of rainfall received (mm)
Parachinar	242	Mirkhani	104
Kalam	152	Muzaffarabad	99
Dir	110	Garhi Dopatta	88
Kakul	108	Drosh	81
Pattan	105	Balakot	78



CROP REPORT DURING MARCH, 2012

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. Operations of chemical spraying against pest attacks on fruit orchards during the month were also in progress. Pace of growth and development of the crops reported satisfactory in irrigated areas. In most of the rainfed areas growth of wheat and other standing crops was suffered due to dry weather/below normal rains reported during the month.

In **Punjab**: Growth of wheat crop is reported satisfactory. However mild rust attack has been reported in some areas. The crop is reported at early /full maturity stage in most of the agricultural plains of the province at the end of this month. Harvesting of the crop will start from the first week of April all across the province. Growth of oilseed is reported satisfactory. The crop is at maturity stage and harvesting has started in some areas. No pest attack on the crop has reported. Growth of gram and lentil has also been reported poor due to dry weather in most of the growing areas. Harvesting of the green gram is in progress. No serious pest attack has been reported on these crops. Sowing of summer vegetables has completed and these are growing satisfactory. Sowing of other spring/kharif crops like sugarcane, sunflower and maize has also been in progress.

In **Sindh**: Harvesting of wheat crop is almost completed throughout the province and threshing is in progress. Normal to above normal yield is expected. Land preparation/sowing of cotton crop have been started. Castor oil is growing satisfactory and its picking is in progress. Safflower is at flowering stage and growth has reported well. Growth of linseed has been reported well and the crop is at maturity stage. Sowing of sunflower is almost completed and the crop is growing at early vegetative stage. Mangoes are at fruit formation stage. The growth and picking of other seasonal fruits like guava, banana, Cheeko is in full swing. Summer vegetables are growing satisfactory and picking of early grown varieties has been started in some areas.

In **Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa:** Overall growth and development of wheat crop in the irrigated areas of the province is reported satisfactory. But the growth of wheat crop is affected badly in rainfed areas due to dry weather or less rainfall during the month. The crop is growing at flowering/ early maturity stage. No pest attack has been reported so far on the crop. Harvesting/crushing of sugarcane has been completed and good yield has been reported. Sowing of summer vegetables has been completed. Growth of orchards is also reported satisfactory. They are at flowering/early fruit formation stage. Chemical spraying on orchards against insects and fungus attacks was in progress. Dust storm along with gusty winds badly affected orchards at flowering stage in plain areas of the province.

In **Balochistan:** Condition of standing crops like wheat, maize and canola has been reported satisfactory. All these crops are at their early growing stage. Growth of fruit orchards and that of seasonal vegetables is satisfactory and picking/harvesting is in progress.

In **Gilgit Baltistan:** The growth of wheat crop is in progress and is reported satisfactory. The crop is at early growing stage in most of the region. The growth of seasonal orchards and vegetables is also reported satisfactory.