

NORMALLY EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY, 2012

Westerly waves would continue to move along the middle latitudes and their troughs are expected to extend southward occasionally affecting country's agricultural plains. A normal precipitation ranges from 50 to 75 mm over Potohar plateau, 30 mm to 50 mm in Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa, Quetta valley and central Punjab. Less than 10 mm rainfall is expected in southern Punjab, Sindh and lower Balochistan.

Evaporative demand of the atmosphere is not likely to change significantly relative to January. According to the average conditions, it is expected to remain 2 to 3 mm/day in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa. In Quetta valley it will vary from 1 to 2 mm/day; while its maxima will be observed in Sindh where it may reach 4 mm/day. The probability of occurrence of rainfall over Potohar plains is given below:-

Amount/ Day	PERCENTAGE PROBABILITY OF OCCURANCE OF DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF RAINFALL IN FEBUARY					
	1-5	6-10	11-16	17-20	21-25	26-28
10 mm	21	22	38	40	42	29
20 mm	13	18	32	30	34	21
30 mm	6	8	21	13	17	12

The days and night, during February may be slightly warmer than January. The maximum temperature in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa are likely to range between 19 to 24°C, 25 to 28°C in Sindh and lower Balochistan. Quetta valley will have average day temperatures around 13°C. The minimum temperature may vary from 5 to 9°C in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa. Slightly higher minimum would be experienced in lower Balochistan and Sindh varying from 10 to 13°C. In Quetta valley, monthly average of minima will be around 0°C. The frequency of occurrence of freezing nights will be higher in Quetta followed by mountainous and sub mountainous plains of Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa and Punjab.

The photo period during February is expected to vary between 6 hours in the north and 9 hours in the South following more or less uniformly increasing trend from north to south. Accordingly, the solar radiation intensity would also be higher in South as compared to north. It would range from 12 to 16 MJ/M²/day. Wind speed at low elevation plains may remain less than 7 km/hr whereas at higher elevation it may be slightly higher. Westerly component will remain more prevalent.

The monthly water requirement of wheat crop during February is given below:

S.No	Region	Water Requirement	
		(mm)	Cubic Meter/Hectare
1.	Quetta valley	20-25	200-250
2.	Potohar plateau and upper KPK	30-35	300-350
3.	Central Punjab and lower KPK	35-40	350 -400
4	Southern Punjab	40-45	400-450
5.	Sindh and lower Balochistan	45-55	450-550