

NORMALLY EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH, 2012

March is normally the wettest month of winter season. Heating starts over the subcontinent due to increasing solar angle and the sun shine over the equator during last decade of the month. Heating trend triggers energetic weather systems, which resulted in increasing number of dust / wind storms and precipitation. March marks substantial addition to Rabi season precipitation and rising temperatures contribute significantly in photosynthesis process. The probability of occurrence of rainfall during March over Potohar plains is given below:-

Amounts/ Dates	Percentage Probability of Occurrence of different Amounts of Rainfall in March					
	1-5	6-10	11-16	17-20	21-25	26-31
10 mm	26	30	29	51	43	40
15 mm	22	23	21	36	35	23
25 mm	13	18	16	21	22	14

Potohar plateau and northern KPK may receive precipitation ranging from 160mm to 190mm depending upon location. However, remaining parts of Punjab, KPK and high agricultural plains of Balochistan are likely to experience precipitation between 125mm and 150mm. The rainfall amounts in rest parts of the country would also be significant.

The level of mean daily relative humidity is expected to drop as compared to January/February and would range between 45% and 60%. The daily evaporative demand of the atmosphere will increase with increasing temperature trend and mean daily values averaged over the month would vary from 3mm to 4mm in KPK, Punjab and high plains of Balochistan. However, ETo values would rise to 5mm/day in Southern Sindh and lower Balochistan.

The mean daily temperature would follow an increasing trend from north towards south and will vary between 17°C and 26°C whereas in Quetta valley it would be around 11°C. The daily maximum is likely to make monthly average as 24 to 34°C and minimum as 10 to 18°C from north towards south. The occurrence of freezing temperature is likely in Quetta valley, whereas daytime temperature may approach to 40°C in lower Sindh.

The mean daily duration of bright sunshine is likely to range from 7 to 9 hours following an increasing trend from north towards south. The mean daily wind speed may vary between 4 to 10 km/hr and would prevail mainly from north and west direction.

Wheat is the major Rabi crop in the agricultural plains of the country growing at different phenological phases e.g. at shooting in high agricultural plains of the country and heading to grain formation in low elevation plains during March. The crop water requirement of wheat in different regions is given as under:

S.No	Region	Water Requirement	
		(mm)	Cubic Meter/Hectare
1	Northern KPK and adjoining Punjab and high plains of Balochistan.	90-110	900-1100
2	Punjab and Southern KPK.	120-140	1200-1400
3	Sindh and lower Balochistan.	140-150	1400-1500