Monthly Agromet Bulletin for Pakistan

(January, 2013)



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NATIONAL AGROMET CENTRE PAKISTAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT SECTOR H-8/2, ISLAMABAD

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

- 1. This Agrometeorological bulletin is prepared on the basis of data from 15 stations of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). These stations, selected in consultation with the agricultural authorities, represent major agricultural areas of the country. There are still important agricultural areas which are not represented by the stations included in the bulletin. This may be (a) because there are no PMD stations in these areas and /or (b) the fact that we had to limit the number of stations due to the requirement of speedy data communication and processing (both of which are important for producing and dispatching timely Agrometeorological bulletins).
- 2. Due to the above, all inferences and conclusions hold true primarily for the above areas and not for Pakistan territory which include areas that may not be very important from the agricultural point of view and the climate of which may not bear directly on agriculture in the major producing areas.
- **3.** The precipitation probability graphs at the end of the bulletin are computed using the long term records of these stations. The precipitations of the current season are plotted in this probability back ground. The use and interpretation of these graphs is clarified by an example. If the precipitation of a month in a station talley to an 80% probability, this means that 80% of the years (or on average 8 out of 10 years or 4 out of 5 years) the precipitation is equal to or less than the amount which was received during this month. One can also conclude that in 20% (100% 80%=20%) of the years (or on the average 2 out of 10 years or one out of 5 years) the precipitations during this month exceeds the present level.
- **4.** The evapotranspiration graphs at the end of the bulletin are based on computations using long term records of these stations. The evapotranspiration of the current season are plotted against this background. The reference crop evapotranspiration (ETo) is indicative of the evaporative demand of the prevailing atmospheric condition. It shows the rate of evapotranspiration from an extended surface of 8-15cm tall green grass cover of uniform height, actively growing. Evapotranspiration is, very roughly, 70% to 80% of ETo. However, it ranges from below 10% for a crop just emerging from the soil to over 100% for well watered densely planted tall crops under windy condition.
- **5.** The normally expected weather of next month is prepared on the basis of premise of normal or near normal weather prevailing during the coming month. As such it should not be confused with synoptic weather of the next month.
- 6. In the tables, the values in the parentheses are based on 1961 to 1990 normal. Normal values (in parenthesis) of Soil Temperatures are based upon 10 years data. Dotted line (---) means missing data. Solar radiation intensities are computed from sunshine duration using co-efficients developed by Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry of Pakistan Meteorological Department.

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Highlights ---

• Dry weather/below normal rain was reported in agricultural plains of the country for most of the days during the month. Light to moderate rain for a few days was reported at Kashmir, KP, Punjab and Balochistan and dry weather/meager rain in agricultural areas of Sindh.

• Normal/below normal temperature trend was observed in most of the agricultural plains of the country.

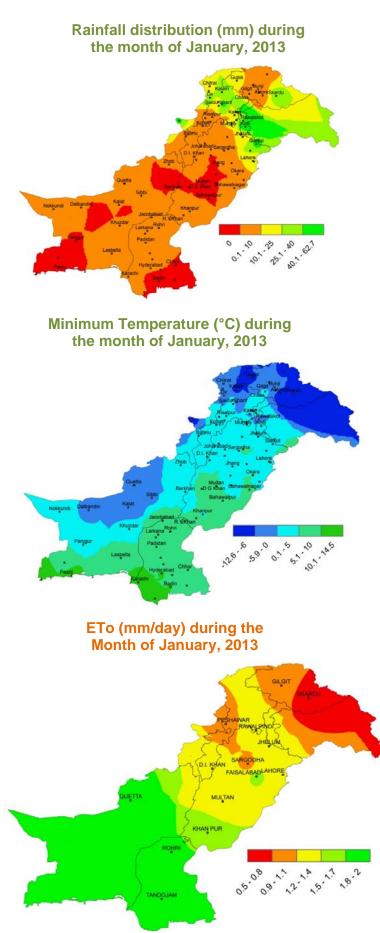
• ETo and R.H remained mostly below normal in the agricultural plains of the country.

• Agricultural soils showed normal to cooler trend in most of the agricultural plains of the country. However soils of Potohar region remained normal/ slightly warmer at major root zone.

• Picking/harvesting/crushing of sugarcane, seasonal vegetables/ fruits especially citrus and apple and removal of weeds from standing crops were the major field activities in most of the agricultural plains of the country during the month.

• Keeping the present soil moisture and dry weather prevailing over most of the agricultural plains, farmers in wheat growing areas should now focus on weeds control. Farmers may cultivate sunflower on free lands where wheat was not cultivated. Full month of February is very suitable for sunflower cultivation in the agricultural plains of the country.

(2)



CROP REPORT DURING JANUARY, 2013

Picking/harvesting/crushing of sugarcane, seasonal vegetables and fruit especially citrus and apple, removal of weeds from standing crops and fertilizer application were the major field activities in most of the agricultural plains of the country during the month.

In **Punjab:** The growth and development of the crops both in rainfed and irrigated areas has reported satisfactory but somewhat poor due to lack of soil moisture especially in rainfed areas. Recent occurred and coming expected rains will improve this situation in rainfed areas. Wheat crop is reported at tillering/shooting stages. Growth and development of Gram crop has been reported satisfactory. The early sown crop is attaining flowering stage. The growth of oilseed crop is reported satisfactory and the crop is at pod formation while the mid and late sown crop is at flowering stage. Sowing of Masoor crop has been completed. Germination/growth of the crop is reported satisfactory. Harvesting/picking of winter vegetables and fruit (citrus) is in progress and very good yield has obtained this year.

In **Sindh:** Condition of wheat crop is reported satisfactory. The crop is at heading/ flowering stage. Condition of oil seed crops is reported satisfactory. Castor oil and Jtropha crops are growing satisfactory at capsule formation stage. Rape mustard is at pod formation stage, safflower and Linseed are at vegetative stage and sunflower at early germination stage. Crushing of sugarcane is in full swing and very good yield is expected in the areas which are not affected by floods. Seasonal fruits like Guava, banana, cheeko are in good condition. Cheeko and apple stone (Bare) are at fruit formation stage. Picking/harvesting of winter vegetables is vield is in progress and good being obtained.

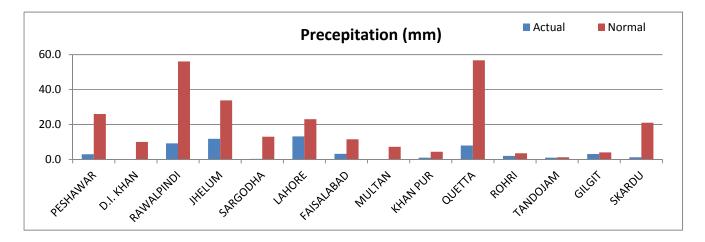
In **Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa:** The growth and development of the crops in irrigated as well as in rainfed areas are reported satisfactory due to satisfactory rains during the month. The condition of wheat crop is reported satisfactory. The crop is growing at shooting/heading stage. The growth of oil Harvesting/crushing of sugarcane crop is in progress and very good yield is reported. The growth of oil seed crops including newly introduced biofuel crop Jtropha is reported satisfactory. Harvesting of winter vegetables is in progress and these are available in the market. Growth of orchid is satisfactory and good yield of citrus has reported.

In **Balochistan:** Condition of standing crops and orchards is reported satisfactory. All varieties of apples have developed colour and picking of the fruit is in progress. Yield of winter vegetables are reported well and these are available in the market.

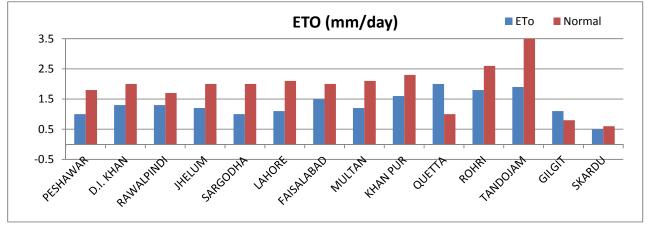
In **Gilgit Baltistan**: Most of the agricultural activities stop during the winter season in the area. Soil has been prepared for wheat crop to be sown in the coming months.

MOISTURE REGIME DURING JANUARY, 2013

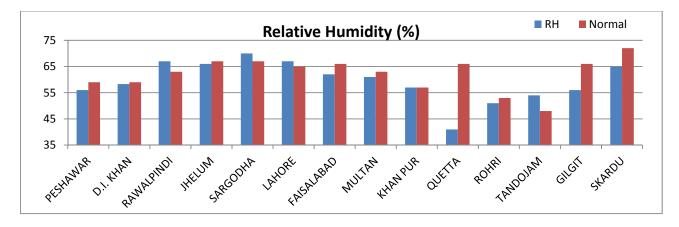
Normally January is a rainy month in winter season in the agricultural plains of the country but during this January dry weather/below normal rains were reported in the agricultural plains for most of the days during the month. Dry and cold continental winds prevailed over the country for most of the days during dry weather.



The evaporative demand of the atmosphere represented by reference crop evapotranspiration (ETo) remained normal to below normal in most of the agricultural plains of the country. Highest value of ETO was observed 2.0mm/day at Quetta due to mostly dry weather/clear skies observed during the month. Whereas lowest value of 0.5mm/day was observed at Skardu due to very cold climate of this region during the month.



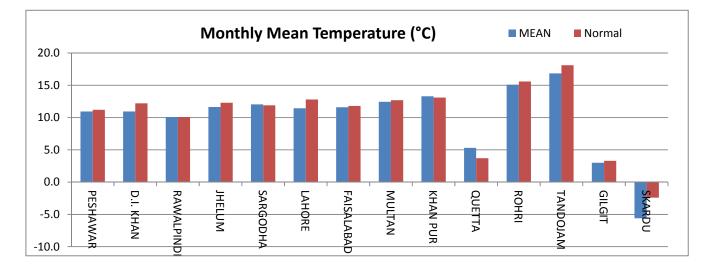
The mean daily Relative Humidity (R.H) remained normal to below normal in most of the agricultural plains of the country except Rawalpindi, Jhelum in Potohar region, Sargodha and Lahore in central Punjab and Tandojam in lower Sindh where it was observed above normal. Maximum value of R.H was observed 70% at Sargodha followed by 67% at Rawalpindi and Lahore each. Whereas minimum value was observed 41% at Quetta valley.



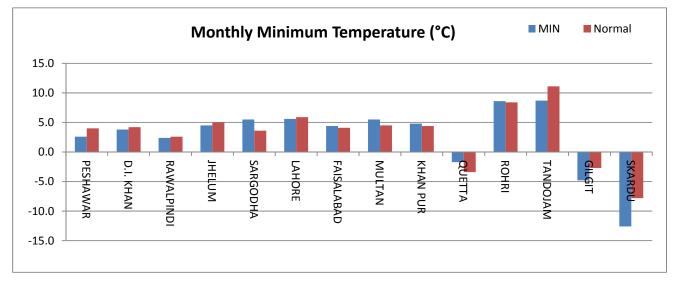
From overall analysis of atmosphere and soil, it is evident that even though below normal rains have received in this month also but sever water stress conditions were not observed in the agricultural plains due to satisfactory rains received during the month. Expected winter rains in the coming month may further improve the moisture content in atmosphere and soils in the agricultural plains of the country.

Temperature plays vital role in the growth and development of crops. Thermal regime in this month remained normal or below normal in most of the agricultural plains of the country, except Quetta valley where it remained slightly above normal.

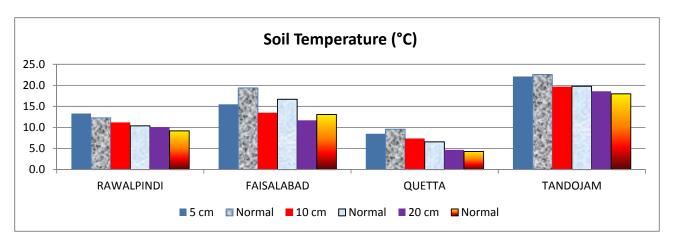
Mean daily temperature remained normal to below normal in most of the agricultural plains of the country by 1-4°C except at Quetta valley Balochistan where it remained above normal (by 1°C). Mean daily temperature rounded to 11°C in Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa, 11 to 12°C in Potohar plateau, in remaining parts of Punjab it ranged 11-13°C, in Sindh it was ranged to 15°-17C, in Gilgit Baltistan region it ranged -6 to 3°C and was observed 5°C in the high elevated agricultural plains of Balochistan represented by Quetta valley.



The night time temperature represented by mean minimum temperature remained normal to below normal by 1 to 2° C in most of the agricultural plains of the country. Whereas in Sargodha, Multan and Khanpur the night time temperature remained above normal by 1- 2° C. The lowest minimum temperature was recorded -13.1° C at Skardu.



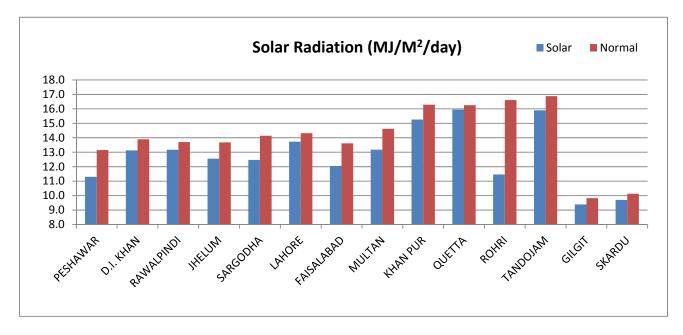
Agricultural soils showed normal to below normal trend in most agricultural areas of the country in shallow as well as in deep soils. In Faisalabad division and Tandojam region, soil temperature remained mostly normal to below normal at root zones as well as in deep layers. The drop in soil temperature was observed more in Faisalabad than Tandojam due to better soil moisture condition. Whereas in Rawalpindi division and Quetta valley soil temperature was observed slightly above normal.

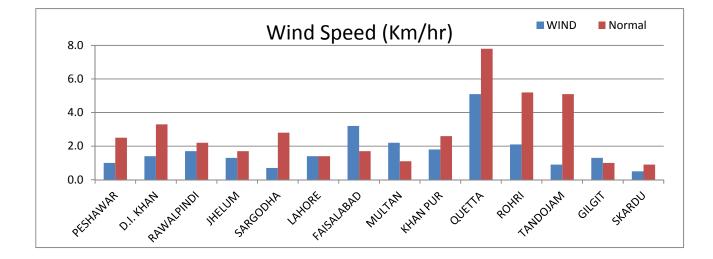


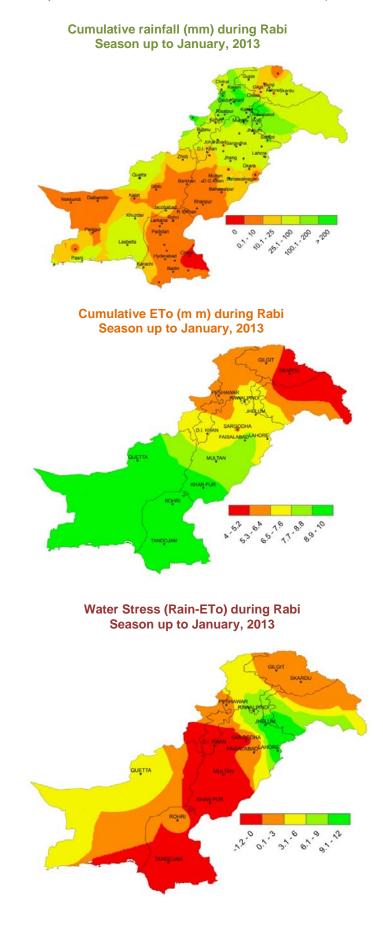
From the general analysis of soil behavior in this month, it is concluded that moisture content is satisfactory in most of the agricultural soils of the country including both rainfed and irrigated areas due to satisfactory rainfall during the month. The situation of soil moisture will further improve due to expected rains during February.

SOLAR RADIATION AND WIND REGIME DURING JANUARY, 2013

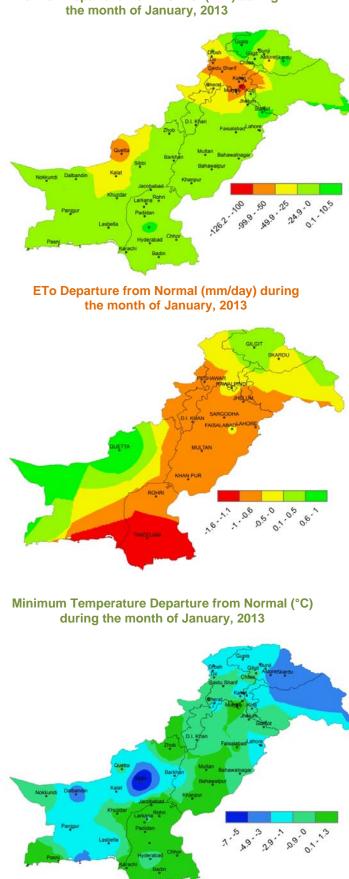
Total bright sunshine hours and solar radiation intensity showed falling trend in most of the agriculture plains during the month. Mean wind speed throughout agricultural plains of the country reached up to 5km/h with North to North-West trend.







Comulative Rainfall, ETo and water stress for Rabi Season (Oct to April)



Rainfall Departure from Normal (mm) during

NORMALLY EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY, 2013

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	PERCENT	PERCENTAGE PROBABILITY OF OCCURANCE OF DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF RAINFALL IN FEBRUARY					
	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 $MJ/M^2/day$. 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 for 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 KP	30-35	300-350	
3.	Central Punjab and lower KP	35-40	350 -400	
4	Southern Punjab	40-45	400-450	
5.	Sindh and lower Balochistan	45-55	450-550	

(13) Seasonal Weather Update

Synoptic situation

- Jet stream (Zonal wind at 200 hPa) is stronger over west of the country from normal in January and persisted over normal location during January. (Above normal rain during February).
- Convergence of maximum wind speed expected area over the west of Pakistan is higher than normal during current month. (More rain during February).
- A deep trough at the height of 500 hPa over west of the region is expected during February which may cause change the track of western disturbances from normal towards south during February.
- North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) is in negative phase and may effect on normal western disturbances track in the region (above normal precipitation) (Horrell pc-based monthly calculation of NAO).
- ENSO is expected to be in positive phase during November-January.
- Arabian Sea Surface Temperature is slightly above normal.
- Caspian Sea surface temperatures are $1.0 1.0^{\circ}$ higher from normal.
- Mediterranean Sea surface temperatures are $1.5 2.0^{\circ}$ higher from normal.

Seasonal Weather Outlook (Feb-13 to Apr-13)

Precipitation:

As considering all the synoptic situation and climatic indices indicates that remaining winter season will be wet and more than normal rains will occur especially over southern parts of the country. Snow fall over the hills will be normal during remaining season (February-April, 2013). It implies that more rain as compared to snow over the hills.

- Above normal precipitation (rain and snow) over Baluchistan and Gilgit Baltistan.
- Below normal precipitation over Kashmir.
- Normal to slightly above normal over FATA, Punjab, Sindh and KP.

Temperature:

Normal night temperature will persist for the rest of the winter season all over the country. The westerly troughs may affect central parts of country in regular fashion that would result drop of temperatures in agriculture plains from the normal.

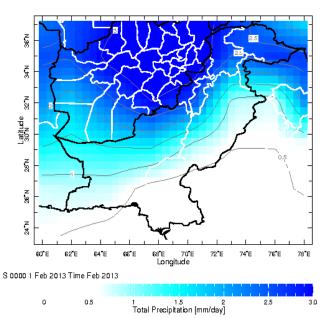
Farmers may adopt precautionary measures to saves paddies.

Above normal precipitation (say 20 %) is expected during next three months (February-April, 2013) Feb-13 Mar-13 Apr-13						
	Feb-13		Iviar-13		Арі-13	
	Average	Expected	Average	Expected	Average	Expected
GB	29.7	Above Average	34.6	Above Average	43.5	Above Average
KP	71.9	Average	92.5	Average	74.7	Average
AJK	110.5	Below Average	127.5	Below Average	94.9	Below Average
FATA	54.0	Average	67.4	Above Average	51.5	Above Average
PUNJAB	27.2	Average	30.9	Average	22.4	Above Average
BALUCHISTAN	20.9	Above Average	23.3	Above Average	11.5	Above Average
SIND	5.4	Average	4.7	Above Average	3.6	Above Average
Precipitation is in mm/month						
Pakistan	27.2	Above Average	31.7	Above Average	23.08	Above Average
Below Average > -10 %, Average precipitation range = -10 to +10 %,			Abov	/e Average > +10 %		

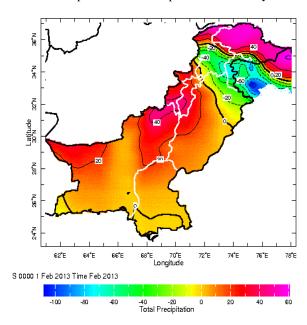
Monthly Quantitative Weather Forecast

Note: Average precipitation is computed by using Global Precipitation Climate Center (GPCC) gridded data by resolution $(0.5^{\circ}x0.5^{\circ})$ latitude by longitude. Ensembles of different climate models are used for computation of expected precipitation over the region.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY, 2013

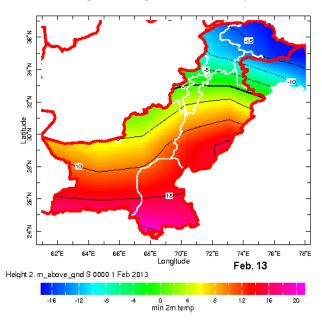


Expected Rainfall for February

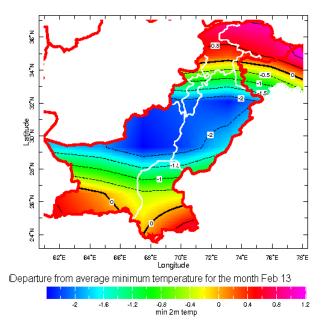


Expected Rainfall Departure for February

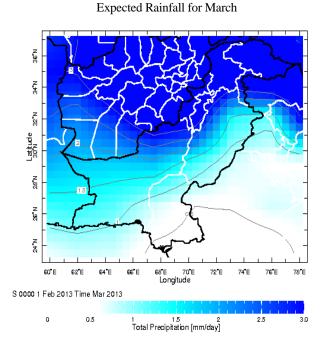
Expected Temperature for February

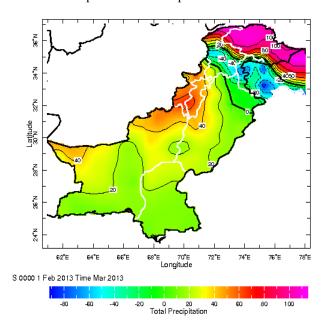


Expected Temperature Departure for February



WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR MARCH, 2013



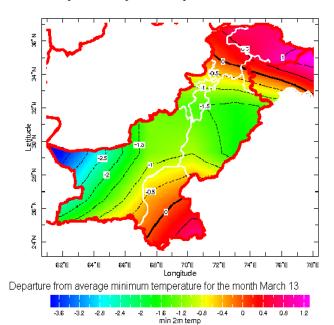


Expected Rainfall Departure for March

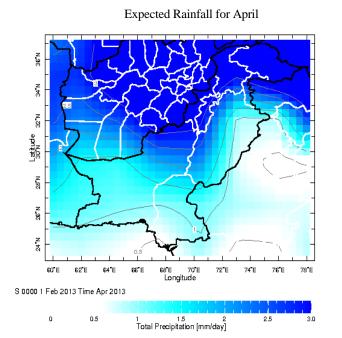
z 8 z 8 N.28 Latitude 30 N 28°N N. 92 24[°]N 62°E 64"E 66°E 68 E E 70"E Longitude 72**°**E 74**°**E 76**°**E 78**°**E Mar. 13 Height 2. m_above_gnd S 0000 1 Feb 2013 16 -12 20 0 4 8 min 2m temp 12

Expected Temperature for March

Expected Temperature Departure for March



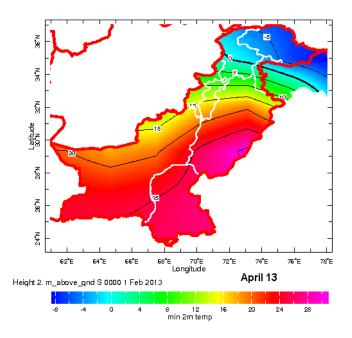
WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR APRIL, 2013



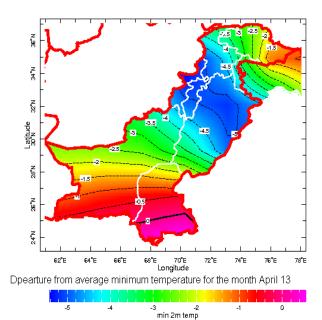
2.8 2**.**8 N 28 Latitude 30 N 28°N Z.20 24[°]N 62"E 68"E 70"E Longitude 64°E 66°E 72**°**E 74"E 76 E 78"E S 0000 1 Feb 2013 Time Apr 2013 60 80 100 -40 -20 -60 0 20 40 Total Precipitation

Expected Rainfall Departure for April

Expected Temperature for April



Expected Temperature Departure for April



فروری 2013ء میں کاشتکاروں کے لیے زرعی مشورے

ماہ جنوری میں ملک کے زیادہ تر زرقی میدانوں میں معمول نے کم بارشیں ہوئیں ۔ماہ فروری میں ملک کے اکثر صوں میں بارش اور پیاڑوں پر برف باری ہونے کی او قتامے جو کردائق کی ضلوں خصوصاً گندم کی فصل کے لیے نہایت ہی مفید ثابت ہوں گی ۔ کسان صفرات سے گز ارش ہے کہ کھیتوں کے گر دھناظتی پشتے مظبوط کریں تا کہ زیادہ ہے زیادہ ٹی محفوظ ہو سکے۔ ماہ فروری میں دین حرارت بتدرج بڑھیں گے تاہم بلند کی پرواقع زرقی میدانوں میں برف اور بارش کی وجہ سے دردہ خواری میں ملک کے اکثر صول میں بارش اور پیاڑوں پر برف باری ہونے کی او قتامے جو کہ رائق کی فضلوں خصوصاً گندم کی فصل کے لیے نہایت ہی مفید ثابت ہوں گی ۔ کسان صفرات سے گز ارش ہے کہ کھیتوں کے گر دھناظتی پشتے مظبوط کریں تا کہ زیادہ سے زیادہ نمیں محفوظ ہو سکے۔ ماہ فروری میں دینہ حرارت بتدرج پڑھیں گی تاہم بلند کی پرواقع زرقی میدانوں میں برف اور بارش کی وجہ سے دردہ محکما دیے گر سکتا ہے ماں لیے اس ماہ مے دوران کسان صفر است سے مندر دندیں فکارشات کو طوط

ا۔ اس دوران پودے میں کورے کے مضرار ات سے بچانے کے کیے کورا پڑنے والی متوقع راتوں میں کھیتوں میں بلکی آبپا څی کرنے سے کھیت کا دیوہ جرارت فوراً مااجا بک کم نہیں، ونا بلکہ آبستہ آبستہ کم ہونا ہے اور اس دوران پودے میں کورے کے خلاف مقابلہ کرنے کی صلاحیت پیدا ہوجاتی ہے۔ سکے علاوہ کورے سے بچاؤ کے لیے پودوں پر بنائی گئی تکوں کی چھو نیز کی کودن کے وقت سورج کی ست کھول دینا چا ج تا کہ سورج کی روشنی پودوں کو پنچتی رہے۔

۲۔ فصل میں جمر کی او نیوں کی موجود گی پیداوار میں کمی کے علاوہ در میکر نفی اثرات کابا عث بھی بنتی ہے لہٰ داا تھی پیداوار حاص کرنے کے لیےان جمر کی او نیوں کی تلفی کے لیے ضل پر زہر کا فورا سپرے کریں یہ تیز ہوا، دہند مایا رش کی صورت میں سپر سے ہرگز نہ کریں اور تحکہ زراعت کے شورے پرعمل کریں۔

۳۔ دود هدینے والے جانو رو لاو رائلی تو لیلیسر دکا کی شدت بچاؤ کے لیے مناسب انتظامات نہ ہونے کی صورت میں تینچنے والی مر دکی یہت فقصان دہ ثابت ہوتی ہے او راس سے متاثر ہونے والے جانوروں کی دود ہد کی پیداوار بہت کم ہوجاتی ہے جبکہ الکے بچ بعض اوقات زندگی سے ہاتھ دعو بطیخے ہیں ساس لئے ضرور کی ہے کہ انہیں رات کی سرد کی او راس سے متاثر مرغیوں کے انڈ ساور کوشت کی پیداوار بھی مرد کی کی شدت کی وجہ سے ہر کا طرح متاثر ہوتی ہے ۔ اس لئے خرور کی ہے کہ انہیں رات کی سرد کی ہوتی ہوا کی سے مخاط ہے۔

۳۔ ماہ فرور کی چیے جیسے بنے اختیام کی جانب بڑھے گا دونہ حرارت میں اضافہ ہونا جائے گان کے ساتھ ضلوں کی نشو وزما بھی تیز ہوجائے گی۔ گندم کی فصل شرائا لئے کے مرحلہ پر پانچی دہی ہوگی ۔ یو ہ مرحلہ ہے جہاں پانی کی کی فصل کی پیدادار کو بر کی طرح متاثر کرتی ہے مان لئے ضرور کی ہے کہ آپ ان دورائیئے میں فصل کو چھی طرح سیراب کریں یہ یومی حالات سے متعلق مزید معلومات کیلیے تک موصلیت سے فریجی دفتر سے رابطہ کیا جا سکتا ہے جن کا پید درج ذیل ہے ۔

- ا۔ سستیشنل ایگرومیٹ سینٹر پی ۔او تکس نمبر 1214 ہیکٹرانیج ایٹ ٹو،اسلام آبا دیفون نمبر: -9250299-051
- ۲۔ سیسٹیش فورکاسٹنگ سینٹر برائے زراحت، پی ۔او یکس، 1214 ہیکٹر ایچ ایٹ ٹو،اسلام آبا دیفون نمبر: -4-0250363-925
 - ۳- ریجنل ایگرومیت سینفر، زوبا رانی یونیورش، مرکی دو دُ، راولپند کی فون نمبر: 05290695-051
 - ۴- ریجنل ایگرد مین سینفر، ایوب ریسر بچ انشینیوٹ، جھنگ رو ڈ، فیصل آبا دیفون نمبر : 041-2657047
 - ۵۔ ریجنلا گیرومیٹ سینٹر،ا گیریکلچررریسرچ انشیٹیوٹ، ٹنڈو جام فون نمبر:-02227-0222
 - ۲ ریجنل ایگرومین سینفر، ایگریکلچررریسر چانشینیوٹ، سریاب روڈ کوئٹہ فون نمبر : 081-9211211-081-تفصیلی مومی معلومات کیلیے محکمہ موسمیات کی و دیب <u>www.pmd.gov.pk</u>ملاحظہ کریں ۔