

## **MOISTURE REGIME DURING MARCH, 2012**

Winter rains generally continue from December to March in Pakistan. March is normally one of the wettest months of winter season. However during this March, below normal rains reported in the agricultural plains of the country except Gilgit Baltistan region where it recorded above normal.

The highest amount of rainfall was reported 242mm in Parachinar, followed by 152mm in Kalam and 110mm in Dir.

Numbers of rainy days recorded in the country ranged from 01 to 09 days. The maximum number of rainy days in the country was observed 09 at Skardu, followed by 07days in Rawalpindi and 06 days in Peshawar and Gilgit each.

The evaporative demand of the atmosphere represented by reference crop evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>) remained normal to below normal in all agricultural plains of the country except Quetta valley, where it remained slightly above normal.

The mean daily Relative Humidity (R.H) remained normal to below normal in most of the agricultural plains of the country except Tandojam in lower Sindh and Skardu in Gilgit Baltistan where it was observed above normal. Maximum value of mean Relative humidity was observed 52% at Peshawar followed by 51% at Skardu, 49% at Tandojam and 48% at Rawalpindi. The minimum value was observed 29 % at Quetta valley. Maximum number of days with mean R.H greater or equal to 80% was observed for 02 days at Skardu and 01day at Rawalpindi.

From overall analysis, it is evident that although below normal rains were received however generally weather conditions remained favorable during the month in most of the irrigated agricultural plains of the country, producing good impact on the standing crops particularly on wheat crop which is on the maturity stage. However in rainfed areas due to below normal rains the crop water demand was not fulfilled, which has negatively affected the crop growth. Farmers of upper half especially in the northern hilly areas must be careful about timely and proper use of chemical spraying to avoid/minimize losses caused by pest attacks.

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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%
<b>PESHAWAR</b>	10.5 (78.4)	06	5.0	2.6 (3.1)	52 (58)	00
<b>D.I. KHAN</b>	1.6 (34.8)	04	0.0	3.4 (4.0)	41 (55)	00
<b>KAMRA</b>	0.5 ---	04	0.0	--- ---	45 ---	00
<b>RAWALPINDI</b>	21.2 (89.8)	07	13.8	2.9 (3.0)	48 (57)	01
<b>JHELUM</b>	2.0 (60.5)	03	0.0	3.2 (3.9)	41 (54)	00
<b>SARGODHA</b>	2.8 (35.1)	03	0.0	3.4 (4.0)	46 (55)	00
<b>LAHORE</b>	10.0 (41.2)	04	6.0	3.6 (4.0)	43 (51)	00
<b>FAISALABAD</b>	1.8 (25.7)	04	0.0	4.0 (3.9)	43 (58)	00
<b>MULTAN</b>	0.0 (19.5)	00	0.0	3.7 (4.2)	40 (51)	00
<b>KHAN PUR</b>	0.0 (5.6)	00	0.0	4.4 (4.3)	40 (46)	00
<b>QUETTA</b>	11.4 (55.0)	06	11.2	4.2 (3.2)	29 (57)	00
<b>ROHRI</b>	TR (5.7)	01	0.0	4.8 (4.5)	36 (43)	00
<b>TANDOJAM</b>	0.0 (5.1)	00	0.0	4.4 (5.1)	49 (43)	00
<b>GILGIT</b>	36.9 (12.7)	06	33.2	2.9 (2.6)	38 (39)	00
<b>SKARDU</b>	62.6 (40.3)	09	53.5	2.0 (2.0)	51 (48)	02