DROUGHT, LA NIÑA CONDITION AND SEASONAL AGRO-CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR PAKISTAN

Food Security and Agriculture Working Group (FSAWG) Meeting
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DROUGHT AND LA NIÑA CONDITIONS

• Drought situation improved since June 2021.

• In Balochistan, Taftan, Dalbandin, Naushki, Mashkhel and Kharan areas are facing Mild to Moderate drought conditions.

• Rest of the country is showing normal conditions.

• No change in drought situation since January.

However, situation needs to be monitored regularly, as dry weather and almost no/very little rainfall is forecasted during April-September in Sindh and Balochistan.
Balochistan
- **Central Balochistan** is expected to have dry weather during the period.
- Dry weather conditions may increase the water demand of the crops and may bring early maturity in the crop.
- **North-Eastern Balochistan** is also expected to have mainly dry weather during the period.
- A spell of light rainfall is expected during the start of May.
- The dry weather may increase the crop water demand and high temperatures may result in early maturity

Sindh
- **Upper Sindh** is expected to have dry weather during the entire period.
- Consistent hot and dry conditions would increase the water requirement for the standing crops in the region.
- **Lower Sindh** may receive light rainfall during the start of June and September during the period.
- Due to the prolong dry conditions the standing crops like cotton and sugarcane would be affected more in the region.
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

- **Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** is expected to receive 3-4 spells of light to moderate rainfall (with a heavy downpour during start of May) during the period.
- The expected rains would be beneficial for the next Kharif crops.
- Wheat crop is in maturity stages in April and the dry weather during the stage may benefit the crop.
- **Lower Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** is expected to receive 2-3 spells of light to moderate rainfall during start of May (with a heavy downpour during the 1st decade of May) till the mid of August.
- The expected rains would be beneficial for the upcoming Kharif crop during its different stages.
- The dry weather in April may benefit the wheat crop in its maturity stages

Punjab

- The **Potohar Region in Punjab** may receive 4-5 light to moderate rainfall spells (with a heavy downpour during the start of May) during the specified period.
- Dry weather during April may benefit the wheat crop during its maturity stages, while rains in May may give good moisture content to the upcoming Kharif crops.
- **Central Punjab** would receive 2-3 spells of light to moderate rainfall mainly during May and June.
- The expected rains in May would be beneficial for the next crop in its early stages.
- **Southern Punjab** is likely to experience mainly dry weather throughout the specified period.
- Light rainfall is expected during start of May and June. The expected dry weather may increase the water requirement of the Standing crops.
Gilgit Baltistan

- GB is expected to receive several spells of light to moderate rainfall during the specified period (with few heavy downpours during the May, June and September).
- The cloudiness/rains especially in the month of May may not be favorable for the crop in terms of dry matter production and final yield.

Kashmir

- Kashmir is expected to receive several light to moderate spells (with few heavy downpours during May & June) during the period.
- The cloudiness/rains in the months of April/May would not be favorable for the crop in terms of dry matter production and final yield.
RAINFALL OUTLOOK AND LA NIÑA CONDITION (SOURCE: PMD)
• The latest ENSO outlook based on Multi-Model Ensemble forecast suggests La Niña conditions with weak intensity for April-June 2022, which gradually decreases. Meanwhile, ENSO-neutral conditions are likely to be gradually increasing and then dominant from June onward.
The Multi-model Ensemble outlook suggests the rainfall forecast as:

- **Below normal** over most parts of the country with maximum departure over northwestern parts during April; **below to Slightly below normal** during May whereas during June the upper half may receive **above normal** while **slightly below normal** over the lower half of the country.