

Pakistan

National Agromet Centre has established five Regional Agromet Centers (RAMCs) in the major agriculture plains of the country, where the major crops are monitored thoroughly on agrometeorological grounds and at the end of each season a comprehensive document (Crop Report) is produced on regular basis. These RAMCs are located at Rawalpindi (Potohar), Faisalabad (Central Punjab), Usta Muhammad (Eastern Baluchistan), Quetta (Northern Baluchistan) and Tandojam (Lower Sindh). Crop reports mainly portray the post analysis study based on impact of weather on particular crop in the relevant area.

Agromet Centres issues weekly Agromet Advisory Service bulletins which covers the post analysis outcome (including the data tables, figures/maps and a comprehensive discussion portion) based on all the important Agromet data for the past week collected mainly from a network of 34 agromet stations throughout Pakistan (working under National Agromet Centre NAMC, Islamabad) besides meteorological network of PMD.

The agromet data being utilized comprise of all the important meteorological and agriculture related elements like air temperatures, soil temperature, rainfall, air humidity, cloud cover, growing degree days, general weather pattern, crop condition report including phenological report etc. Besides this, a comprehensive farmers advisory is also included which covers the general forecast for the coming week along with crop specific as well as animal care suggestions.

Besides, following bulletins & reports are also issued.

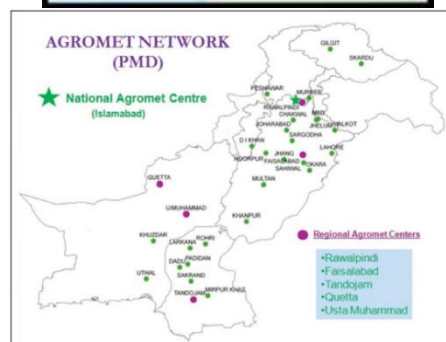
Decadal Bulletins

Monthly Bulletins

Crop Calendar & Harvest Calendar

Below are the types of information included in a typical agromet advisory bulletin prepared by the PMD:

- Advisories on dates of sowing/planting and the suitability of carrying out intercultural operations.
- District specific weather forecast in quantitative term, for the next 10 days for rainfall, cloud, maximum/minimum temperature, wind speed/direction and relative humidity, including warning of hazardous weather likely to cause stress on standing crops and suggestions on how to protect them.
- Information on soil moisture status and guidance for application of irrigation, fertilizer and herbicides, etc.
- Warnings of major pests and diseases of principal crops and advice on plant protection measures.
- Manipulation of crop microclimates, e.g. shading, mulching, other surface modifications, shelter belt, frost protection etc. to protect crops under stress.



Timely dissemination of agrometeorological information online and through mass media is part of a process that empower the farmers with scientific knowledge and to take appropriate action for enhancing agricultural production. SohniDharti is the first agricultural TV channel of Pakistan that provides information relating to agriculture and rural development (<http://www.sohnidharti.tv/>). A TV channel and an FM radio station are also being set up in the public sector to educate farmers about modern farming technology suiting their needs.

The Internet is a new and cost-effective technology that can provide research and technological development information in an accurate and timely manner. Additionally, the Internet is also effectively used to offer training modules to agrometeorologists and help them improve the quality of their products. Besides, through the National Agromet Centre agromet bulletins are disseminated. There are few other agencies providing bulletins through their websites or radio services.

- Advisory on the judicious management of land, water and farm inputs, particularly pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Advisories for livestock on health, shelter and nutrition

