Agrometeorological Activities in Pakistan

Strengthening Agrometeorological Services in Pakistan

Key Publications and Bulletins:

- **Decadal Bulletins** (10-day reports)
- **Monthly Bulletins**
- **Crop Calendar & Harvest Calendar**

Content of Agromet Advisory Bulletins:

The **Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD)** prepares **agromet advisory bulletins** covering:

- Recommendations on **sowing and planting schedules**, as well as optimal timings for intercultural operations.
- **District-specific 10-day weather forecasts** including rainfall estimates, cloud cover, maximum/minimum temperature, wind speed/direction, and relative humidity. Forecasts also include warnings about **hazardous weather conditions** that could impact standing crops, along with preventive measures.
- **Soil moisture assessments** and recommendations for **irrigation, fertilizer, and herbicide applications.**
- **Early warnings for major crop pests and diseases**, accompanied by guidance on **plant protection measures.**
- **Strategies for modifying crop microclimates** (e.g., shading, mulching, shelter belts, and frost protection) to safeguard crops from stress.
- Advisories on the **efficient use of land, water, and farm inputs** such as **pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.**
- **Guidance for livestock farmers**, including recommendations on **animal health, shelter, and nutrition.**

Dissemination of Agrometeorological Information:

Timely distribution of agrometeorological data through online platforms and mass media plays a crucial role in **empowering farmers** with scientific knowledge, helping them make informed decisions to **enhance agricultural productivity.** Pakistan's **first agricultural television channel, "Sohni Dharti"** (www.sohnidharti.tv), serves as a vital platform for

disseminating information related to **agriculture and rural development.** Additionally, a **public-sector TV channel and an FM radio station** have been launched to educate farmers on **modern, climate-resilient farming techniques.**

The **Internet** has become an effective and **cost-efficient** tool for providing **research-based agricultural information** in real time. Online platforms are also utilized for **training agrometeorologists** to improve the quality of advisory services. The **National Agromet Centre** continues to distribute agromet bulletins through multiple channels, including **government websites and radio services**, ensuring that farmers receive **accurate and timely** weather-based agricultural guidance.