

FOOD SECURITY & FLOOD IDPS

Food Security

Prolonged Cold Wave Restricts Flow to Reservoirs

Changing weather patterns with a prolonged cold wave lasting halfway through March may result in farmers sitting idle in Sindh rather than doing what they do best when the upcoming crop season starts. Water levels in Mangla and Tarbela reservoirs have reached an alarming level and may result in Sindh facing a water shortage of around 40 to 50 per cent in early Kharif season that starts in April. Glaciers usually melt around this time of the year and provide enough water supplies for the upcoming crop season; however, the recent cold wave has prevented this natural phenomenon from happening. The situation will get much worse if the cold wave does not end by March 20. The official estimate of water shortage for the Kharif season will be made by Indus River System Authority's (Irsa) technical committee.

The Express Tribune- March 16, 2012

Kharif Crops Face Serious Shortfall

The coming Kharif crops face a serious water crisis because estimates of shortfall at the start of the sowing season in April range between 60 per cent and 70 per cent. The Tarbela reservoir touched its dead level early this week while the Mangla dam, which had only 13 feet of additional water, was expected to reach its dead level. The relevant agencies and the provinces are anticipating severe shortage in the last week of March and have begun reducing discharges. The sources said that water flows in the major rivers had declined significantly in recent days. They said the flows in Jhelum River, which stood at 28,000 cusecs a few days ago, came down to 24,000 cusecs on Thursday, plummeting further to 8,000 cusecs. The flows in the Kabul River have also come down to 6,000 cusecs from 10,000 cusecs a few days ago. Similarly, the flows in the Indus River have dropped to 19,000 cusecs from 22,000 cusecs.

Dawn - March 10, 2012

Overall Food Prices Rose in Four Years

The cost of minimum food comprising basic items increased during four years of the current government. Four year comparison of essential items prices;

Commodities	25 March 2008	25 March 2012	Difference	Percentage
Petrol	62.81	97.66	34.85	55.48
High Speed Diesel	44.13	103.46	59.33	134.44
CNG	37.00	71.05	34.05	92.03
LPG	53.00	140.00	87.00	164.15
Wheat Flour (Atta no.2.5)	16.00	33.00	17.00	106.25
Basmati (Premium)	90.00	135.00	45.00	50.00

Basmati (Broken)	46.00	65.00	19.00	41.30
Masur	85.00	100.00	15.00	17.65
Moong	50.00	135.00	85.00	170.00
Mash	62.00	135.00	73.00	117.74
Arhar	82.00	145.00	63.00	76.83
Gram Pulse	48.00	115.00	67.00	139.58
Sugar	25.00	56.00	31.00	124.00
Ghee 16 kg tin	1700.00	2750.00	31.00	124.00
Dalda 5 kg ghee	720.00	975.00	255.00	35.42
Mutton	300.00	550.00	250.00	83.33
Beef (With Bones)	170.00	320.00	150.00	88.24
Beef (Without Bones)	200.00	380.00	180.00	90.00
Poultry Bird	112.00	152.00	40.00	35.71
Egg (Per Dozen)	49.00	80.00	31.00	63.72
Milk Fresh (Per Litre)	40.00	70.00	30.00	75.00
Milk Powder (Nido 1 kg)	310.00	590.00	280.00	90.32
Lipton Yellow Label	70.00	135.00	65.00	92.86
Tetra Milk (Milk Pak)	44.00	80.00	36.00	81.62

Dawn - March 19, 2012

IDPs: Sindh Floods

A Quarter of Sindh Still under Floodwater; Elite's Land Cleared: Report by Relief Department

Almost 25 percent of irrigation land in Sindh, mainly belonging to less influential people, is still under water following the last year's destructive countryside floods. 10 to 20 percent people are greatly suffering after they returned from relief camps and are presently living in stagnating water. The favorites of officers were bestowed with aid, assistance and provision of Watan cards and distribution of the urea but common men faced difficulties. About 20 to 25 percent of the land is still under the rain / floodwater in the different affected areas. Recommended to the government to get vacated the encroached areas on natural water passages before arrival of the monsoon; otherwise, more humans would suffer in case of an emergency.

The News - March 19, 2012

UN Urged To Provide \$400 M for Rain Victims

The rehabilitation of people affected by last monsoon rains, United Nations had been approached a grant of \$400 million for the purpose. The UNDP surveyed of 16 districts. The UN will provide funds soon to be spent on rehabilitation of agriculture, health and education, and food to rain victims.

Dawn - March 14, 2012

1.28 Million Flood-Affected People on High Risk: Report by PACF

1.28 million food-affected vulnerable individuals, especially minorities, female-headed households, child-headed households, elderly-headed households, disabled, and chronic ill persons have less access to flood relief support in Sindh and resultantly are in a position of high risk.

PACF has called for immediate intervention to

- 6 percent female-headed households
- 133,000 persons with disabilities (13 percent)
- 28 percent older persons over 65 years
- 20 percent families looking after chronically ill persons
- 24 percent minorities

According to the report, 67 percent households were found without proper civil documentations prior to the flood and during the flood 17 percent civil documents were lost further. 16 percent of the households were found having the problems accessing the Pakistan Card due to a number of reasons, including feelings of discrimination, lack of information, restricted physical access, and lack of Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs). Civil documents, in particular CNICs and birth certificates are frequently relied upon to identify beneficiaries, and manage distributions as well as facilitating access to certain services. The gender based issues added that out of the vulnerable population 93 percent of affected communities reported without separate bathing facilities for women causing negative impact on privacy, sense of security and other gender related issues. With regard to child labor, the civil PACF report said that after the flood 24 percent households reported boys working, while 15 percent girls were found working for commercial purpose, whereas specific protection concerns have been identified for persons in temporary settlement sites higher than average numbers of female-headed households.

(Daily Times - March 24, 2012)
