

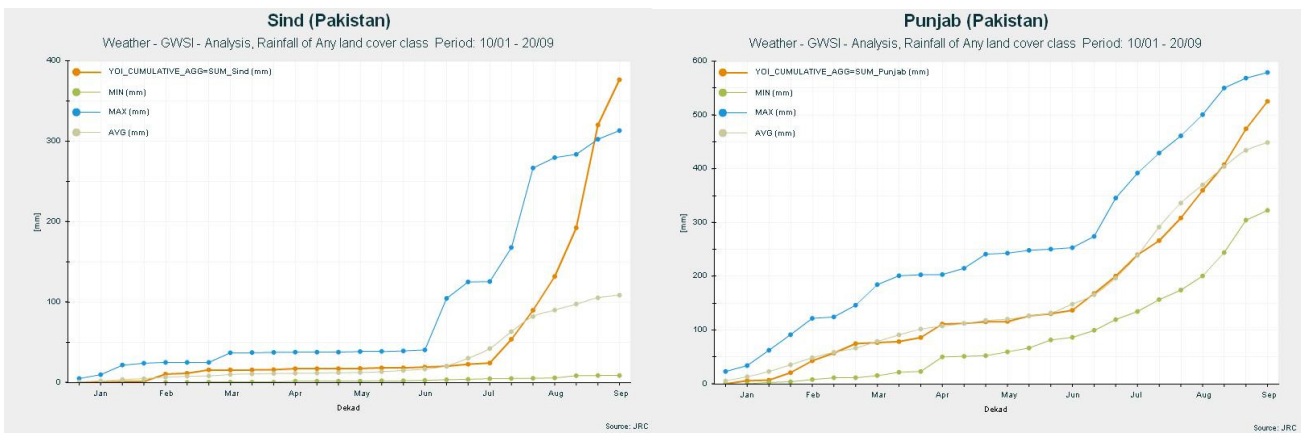
PAKISTAN Flood Update

4 October 2011

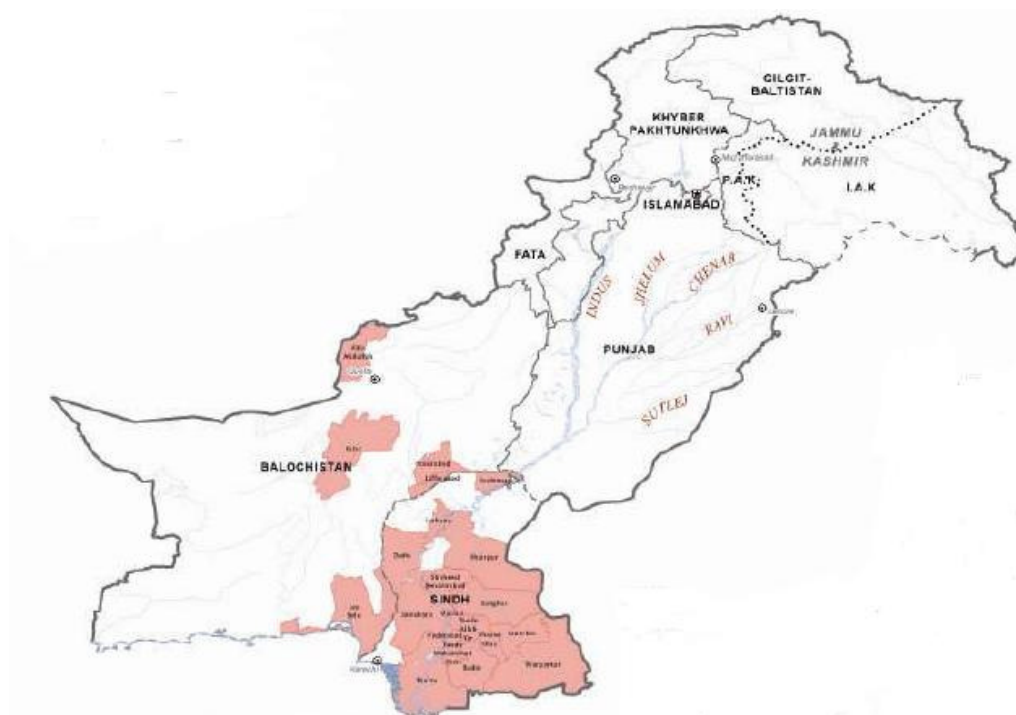
Recent floods in Sindh province have affected large population and caused severe crop damage

The intense monsoon rains from 9 of August 2011 have caused severe flooding in southern Pakistan, hitting Sindh province the hardest. Latest official estimates indicate, as of 29 September 2011, the number of persons adversely affected by the flooding is about 8.9 million. The number of houses damaged or destroyed has reached nearly 1.5 million. Furthermore, nearly 92 thousand livestock have perished and at least 5 million surviving animals are at risk. According to the UN-Government joint assessment over 2.75 million people are in immediate need of food assistance in the monsoon affected areas.

Figure1: Cumulative rainfall from 10 January to 20 September 2011



Source: MARSOP/JRC and FAO/GIEWS



An overall assessment of the agricultural damage is not yet available, but the preliminary official reports indicate that at least 880 000 hectares of standing crops, including rice, maize, cotton, sugarcane, fruit orchards and vegetables, are affected due to the floods in the province. The affected crop land represents some 3.7 percent of the total national cropped area. However, damage to the current paddy crop is moderate and is estimated by FAO and Pakistan's space agency (SUPARCO), as of 20 September, at about 252 700 tonnes, or 2.5 percent of the normal national production. Sindh is second most important province for agricultural production in Pakistan amounting to about 18 percent of the national cereal production (see Table below).

Pakistan - Cereal production, 2008/09 (thousand tonnes)						
	Punjab	Sindh	NWFP	Balochistan	Pakistan	Share of Sindh province in Pakistan (%)
Wheat	18 420	3 540	1 205	868	24 033	15
Rice	3 643	2 537	128	644	6 952	36
Maize	2 627	2	958	6	3 593	0
Jowar (sorghum)	103	33	4	25	165	20
Bajra (millet)	247	45	2	2	296	15
Total	25 040	6 157	2 297	1 545	35 039	18
Total (excl.wheat)	6 620	2 617	1 092	677	11 006	24

Source: <http://www.statpak.gov.pk/fbs/sites/default/files/other/yearbook2010/AGRICULTURE/1-5.pdf>
 Note: Wheat doesn't belong to the season therefore has not been affected.

On the other hand, the abundant rains are likely to benefit growing crops in other areas of the country. The net effect on total production would need to be assessed later in the season. FAO/GIEWS will continue to monitor crop development and weather hazards affecting food security in the region.

Further details can be found in GIEWS Country Brief at <http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/index.jsp> and the most recent flood damage information at <http://pakresponse.info/>.