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2nd Jan' 2010

Weather Advisory

**Below normal rains predicted during January-February 2010**

**Severe moisture stress for Rabi Crops and Water scarcity continue**

Met Office predicted significantly below normal winter rains during the month of January and February in most parts of the country. Due to abnormal dry weather conditions, the rabi crops especially in barani areas, would remain under server moisture stress, and the water scarcity in urban areas may further be aggravated.

Spokesman of Met Office informed that a high pressure area due to El-Nino conditions is prevailing over Pakistan since November 2009, and it is blocking the winter rains for the country. The current El-Nino conditions that started in June, 2009 and suppressed monsoon rains in Pakistan, are still continuing and expected to last till spring 2010. Expected El Niño impacts during current winter include suppressed winter precipitation over Pakistan. **Under these regional and global meteorological parameters, significantly below normal winter rains, ranging from 20-30%, are expected in Pakistan during January-February 2010.**

Due to low rainfall during last monsoon season, Pakistan was already experiencing water scarcity that has further aggravated during the current winter. During current winter, the snowfall over northern areas, Kashmir and Galliyat (a natural resource of water runoff during dry summer months) remained well below normal so far, and the water shortage therefore may further be aggravated during the coming months. The concerned authorities are requested to consider this weather outlook regarding water management, in particular to mitigate the shortage of water availability during the coming months.

During the month of December 2009, 37% below normal winter rain reported from Pakistan except in Balochistan that received good rains.

Rainfall during Dec, 2009:

*Balochistan = 78% above normal rainfall*  
*Punjab = 96% below normal*  
*Kashmir = 12% below normal*  
*NWFP = 58% below normal*  
*Sindh = 43% below normal*  
*Islamabad = 100% below normal*

(SPOKESMAN)