

# AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK

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**PLANNING & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
ZARAI TARAQIATI BANK LIMITED  
HEAD OFFICE, ISLAMABAD**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CURRENT CROP SITUATION</b>	<b>04</b>
2.1	<i>Wheat Crop</i>	04
2.2	<i>Sugarcane Crop</i>	04
2.3	<i>Oil Seed Crops</i>	04
2.4	<i>Horticulture</i>	04
<b>3</b>	<b>WEATHER SITUATION</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>DROUGHT SITUATION</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>WATER AVAILABILITY/ DAMS FLOW DATA</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>AVERAGE PRICES OF AGRI. COMMODITIES</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>TRADE SITUATION</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>FERTILIZER OFFTAKE SITUATION</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>NEWS TRENDS</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>AGRO ADVISORY SERVICES</b>	<b>15</b>

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

During April 2026, agricultural activities remained focused on harvesting of Rabi crops and sowing of Kharif crops. Wheat harvesting was completed across most districts of Punjab, while cotton and other Kharif crop sowing continued in Southern Punjab. Peanut cultivation activities progressed in Pothohar and Thal regions. In Sindh, Kharif crops showed satisfactory development under irrigated conditions. Wheat crop in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa approached harvesting stage, while favorable soil moisture supported maize cultivation. In Balochistan, wheat crop remained at maturity stages, whereas favorable moisture and temperature conditions supported spring crop growth and pasture development in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

During April 2026, most parts of the country received above-normal rainfall, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, upper Punjab and northern Balochistan. Mean temperatures ranged between 10°C and 32°C across the country, while relative humidity remained above normal in most regions.

Water availability remained satisfactory during the month. Reservoir levels gradually increased due to glacial melt, and sufficient water was available in major reservoirs, including Tarbela and Mangla, to meet irrigation and drinking water requirements.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, CPI inflation increased by 10.9 percent on a year-on-year basis during April 2026. Prices of several essential commodities, including bread, beef, mutton, chicken, milk, curd, eggs, onions and tomatoes, increased over the previous month, while prices of wheat flour, bananas, sugar and garlic declined.

According to provisional figures compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, exports during April 2026 amounted to Rs. 691,589 million, showing an increase of 9.37 percent over March 2026 and 13.34 percent over April 2025. Imports amounted to Rs. 1,889,719 million, reflecting an increase of 32.38 percent over March 2026 and 10.40 percent over April 2025.

Total nutrient offtake during April 2026 was recorded at 320 thousand tonnes, showing an increase of 44.1 percent over April 2025. Urea offtake increased by 84.9 percent, while DAP offtake decreased by 10.8 percent. Total domestic fertilizer production during April 2026 stood at 709 thousand tonnes, supplemented by imported fertilizer supplies.

## 2. CURRENT CROP SITUATION

In May 2026, agriculture field activities preparation of rice, sugarcane showing good growth, cotton crop sowing is almost completed, and seasonal vegetables being sown.

### 2.1. Rice:

Farmers in Sindh and Punjab are currently preparing their land for the upcoming crop season, particularly for rice cultivation, while rice nursery raising is also in progress. Farmers are advised to cultivate only the recommended varieties as prescribed by the Agriculture Departments and to consult agricultural experts in case of any crop-related issues for timely guidance and effective management.

### 2.2. Sugarcane

The Sugarcane crop in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is showing healthy growth. Farmers are advised to apply balanced and smart fertilizers, particularly in ratoon crops, to improve crop vigor and maintain healthy development. Continuous and timely nitrogen application, where initiated, should be ensured according to crop requirements. Moreover, irrigation during these months is crucial for proper growth and yield; therefore, farmers are advised to manage irrigation schedules carefully and efficiently

### 2.3. Cotton:

Farmers in Punjab and Sindh have successfully completed cotton sowing, and the crop growth is progressing satisfactorily. Early-sown cotton is also exhibiting healthy and promising growth. Gap filling in affected fields has been carried out to maintain the recommended plant population, while the first hoeing and weed management operations are also underway in most cotton-growing areas. Farmers are advised to continue regular pest scouting and ensure timely irrigation according to crop requirements to sustain healthy growth.

### 2.4. Horticulture

**In Punjab**, watermelon crops have entered the fruit development and harvesting stage, and farmers are carrying out irrigation and pest management practices to maintain fruit quality. Guava orchards are showing healthy growth, and farmers are engaged in pruning, irrigation, and

plant protection measures. Seasonal vegetables such as okra, bitter gourd, brinjal, chili, and cucurbits are under cultivation, while the harvesting of late-season potato and onion crops is also underway in different areas.

**In Sindh**, the harvesting of seasonal vegetables such as spinach, peas, cauliflower, and fenugreek has been completed in most areas, while sowing and transplanting of tomato, chili, and other summer vegetables are underway. Meanwhile, melon and watermelon crops have entered the harvesting stage,

**In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, citrus orchards are under post-harvest management, including pruning & irrigation. Tobacco crop is showing satisfactory growth. Seasonal vegetables are under cultivation, while harvesting of late-season vegetables continues in different districts.

**In Balochistan**, the harvesting of seasonal vegetables, including chilies, ladyfinger, bottle gourd, tomato, and bitter gourd, is underway, while melon and watermelon crops are also being harvested.

**In Gilgit-Baltistan**, the harvesting of cherry, peaches, plum, and other stone fruits is underway, while tunnel-grown vegetables have also entered the harvesting stage.

### **3. WEATHER SITUATION**

#### **Rainfall/ Precipitation**

Rainfall was recorded across the country during the month of April, with significant amounts observed in the upper regions, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), upper Punjab, and northern Balochistan. Most parts of the country experienced above-normal rainfall, except Gilgit-Baltistan, parts of upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, western Balochistan and southeastern Sindh. Major amounts of rainfall recorded during the period are depicted in table below:

Chief amount of rainfall recorded across Pakistan during the month of May, 2026					
Sr. No.	Station	Rainfall (mm)	Sr. No.	Station	Rainfall (mm)
1	Parachinar	283.6	11	Kalam	146.8
2	Malam Jabba	240.0	12	Attock	144.7
3	Cherat	236.6	13	lower Dir	140.5
4	Rawalakot	210.9	14	Peshawar Airbase	140.1
5	Dir	210.5	15	Bacha Khan A/P	139.3
6	Muzaffarabad AP	201.3	16	D.I Khan City	138.9
7	Murree	189.0	17	Garhi Dupatta	134.7
8	Muzaffarabad City	175.0	18	Peshawar City	131.5
9	Kakul	170.0	19	Kotli	131.0
10	Risalpur	159.1	20	Pattan	131.0

### Temperature

The mean temperatures recorded at PMD stations during April 2026, highlights significant regional variations across the country. Overall, mean temperatures ranged between 10°C and 32°C. Relatively lower temperatures, between 10°C and 24°C, were observed over parts of Balochistan, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AJK, and Gilgit-Baltistan. In contrast, relatively higher temperatures prevailed in southern Punjab, Sindh, and western parts of Balochistan, where temperatures ranged between 26°C and 32°C.

### Relative Humidity

During April 2026, the mean Relative Humidity (RH) remained above normal in most parts of the country. The maximum value of mean (RH) was observed as 63% at Peshawar followed by 59% at Rawalpindi, 58% at D.I.Khan, 57% at Rawalpindi, 54% at Jhelum and 52% at Tandojam.

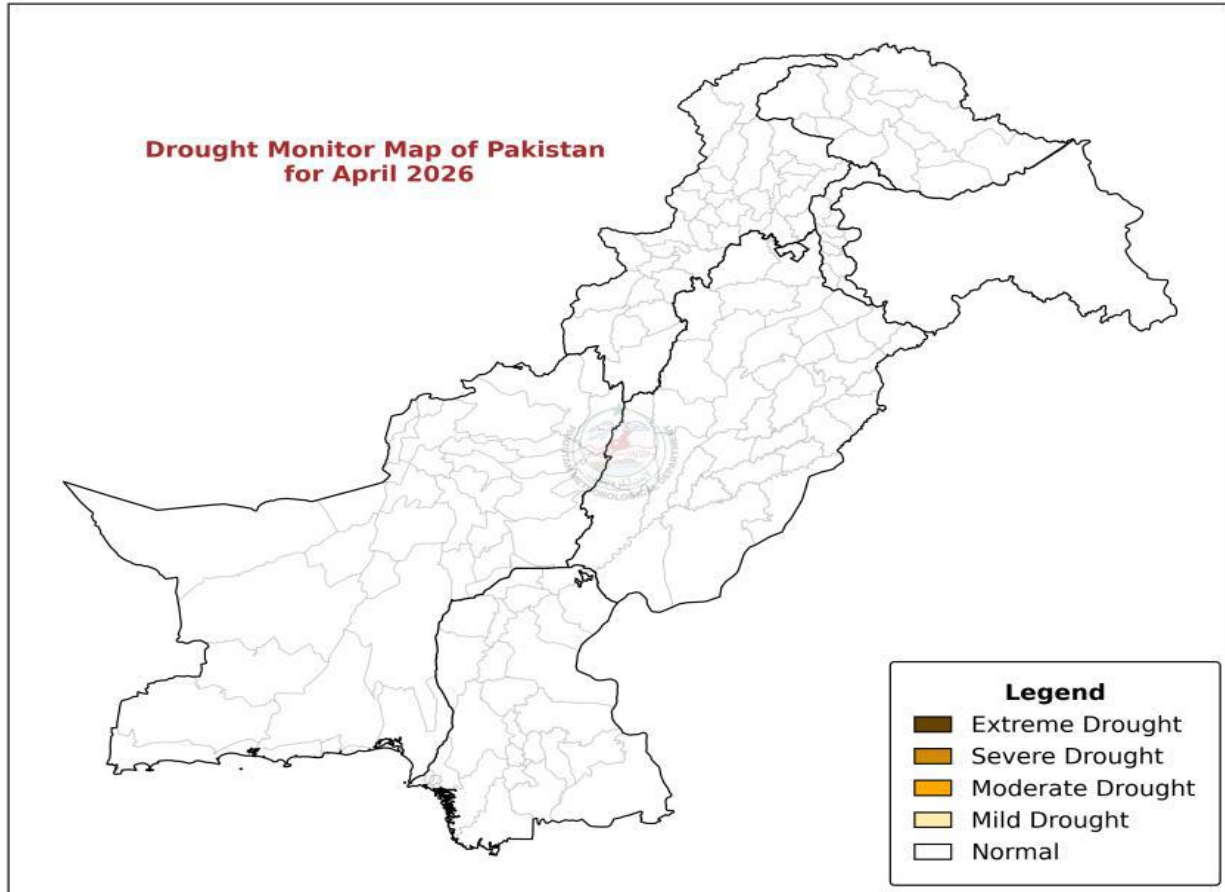
## **Weather Prediction for May 2026**

A general tendency for above normal (1991-2020) rainfall is anticipated across most parts of the country during May 2026, the most pronounced positive anomalies are likely over the northern half, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern Punjab, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and northern Balochistan. In contrast, southern regions including Sindh, southern Punjab, and Balochistan are expected to receive slightly above-normal rainfall. Mean temperatures are expected to remain above normal (1991-2020) nationwide, with maximum departure over GilgitBaltistan, Kashmir and northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in May 2026.

Above-normal temperatures in May are likely to increase the frequency of heatwave conditions across the plains of Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan. Despite the forecast for above-normal rainfall, these regions may experience flash droughts during the dry intervals between rainfall spells.

## **4. DROUGHT SITUATION**

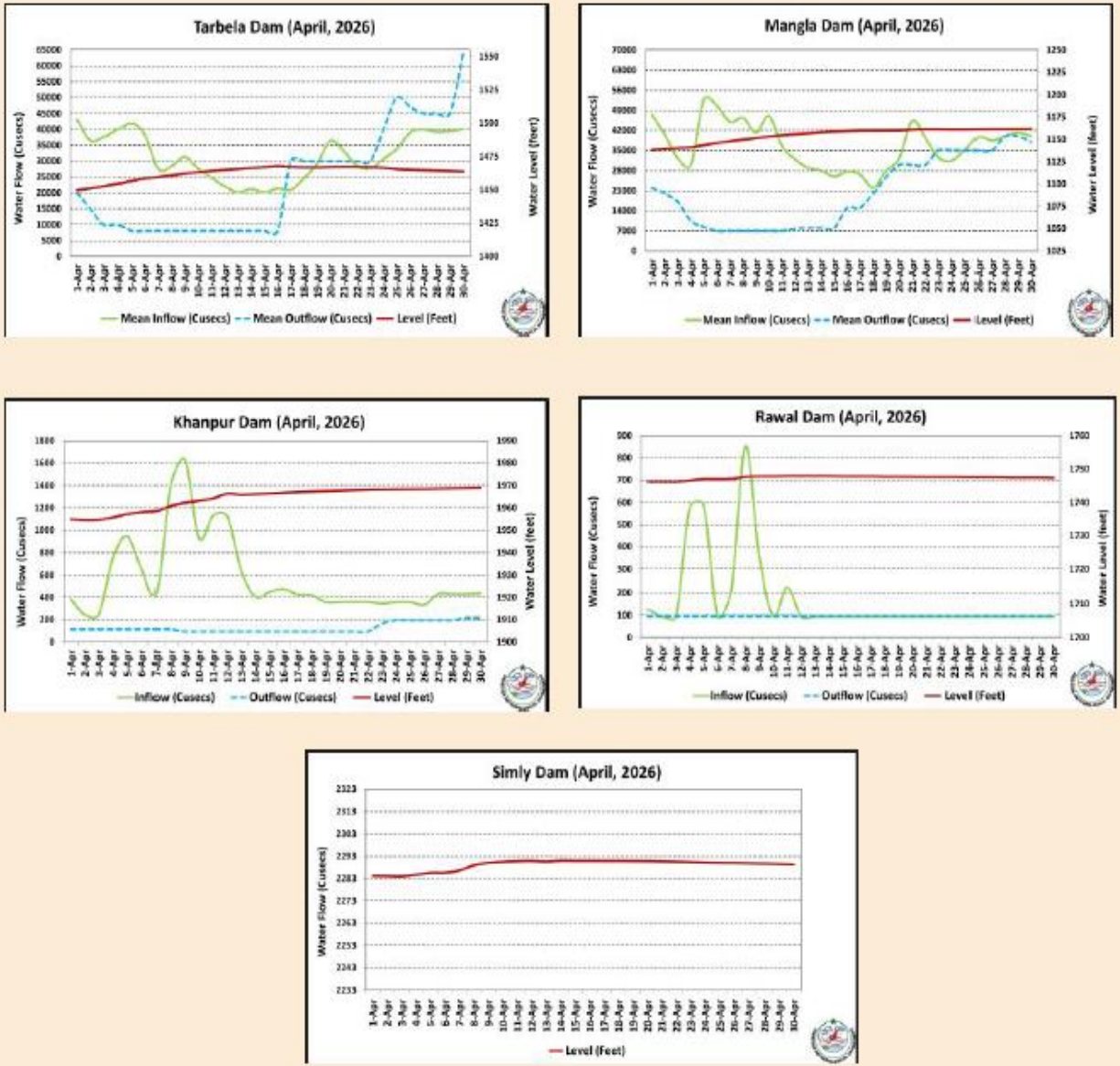
Figure illustrates the countrywide drought situation for April 2026, based on an integrated analysis of multiple drought-monitoring indicators and ground-based observations from meteorological stations. During April, sufficient rainfall has been received across the country. Consequently, normal conditions are now prevailing across the country.



*Drought Monitor of Pakistan for the month of April, 2026*

## 5. Water Availability/ Dams Flow Data

Figure illustrates the water inflow, outflow, and storage levels of major reservoirs, including Mangla, Tarbela, Khanpur, Rawal, and Simly, during the month of April, 2026. The water level has gradually started to increase in reservoirs due to glacial melt. Currently, the water levels at the key reservoirs, Tarbela and Mangla, stand at 1,464 feet and 1,161 feet, respectively. Therefore, sufficient water is available in these reservoirs to meet irrigation and drinking water requirements.



*Water inflow, outflow and level of Simly, Rawal, Khanpur, Tarbela and Mangla Dams, April 2026*

## 6. AVERAGE PRICES OF AGRI. COMMODITIES

**CPI inflation General**, increased by 10.9% on year-on-year basis in April 2026 as compared to an increase of 7.3% in the previous month and 0.3% in April 2025. On month-on-month basis, it increased by 2.5% in April 2026 as compared to an increase of 1.2% in the previous month and a decrease of 0.8% in April 2025.

**CPI inflation Urban**, increased by 11.1% on year-on-year basis in April 2026 as compared to an increase of 7.4% in the previous month and an increase of 0.5% in April 2025. On month-on-month basis, it increased by 2.7% in April 2026 as compared to an increase of 1.3% in the previous month and a decrease of 0.7% in April 2025.

**CPI inflation Rural**, increased by 10.6% on year-on-year basis in April 2026 as compared to an increase of 7.2% in the previous month and a decrease of 0.1% observed in April 2025. On month-on-month basis, it increased by 2.1% in April 2026 as compared to an increase of 1.0% in the previous month and a decrease of 1.0% in April 2025.

**Average Monthly Prices of Essential Items for the month of April, 2026**

S. No.	Description	Unit	Average Prices			%change Apr 26 over	
			Apr-26	Mar-26	Apr-25	Mar-26	Apr-25
1	Wheat Flour Bag	20 Kg	2151.70	2225.35	1615.51	-3.31	33.19
2	Rice Basmati Broken (Average Quality)	1 Kg	215.74	215.83	201.00	-0.04	7.33
3	Rice IRRI-6/9 (Sindh/Punjab)	1 Kg	154.49	154.88	155.40	-0.25	-0.59
4	Bread plain (Small Size)	Each	114.54	111.28	108.71	2.93	5.36
5	Beef with Bone (Average Quality)	1 Kg	1227.70	1198.57	1084.21	2.43	13.23
6	Mutton (Average Quality)	1 Kg	2301.02	2199.45	2006.54	4.62	14.68
7	Chicken Farm Broiler (Live)	1 Kg	420.97	398.29	445.60	5.69	-5.53
8	Milk fresh (Un-boiled)	1 Ltr	206.52	203.75	198.39	1.36	4.10
9	Curd (Dahi) Loose	1 Kg	242.71	239.91	230.67	1.17	5.22
10	Powdered Milk NIDO 390gm	Each	1143.47	1141.72	1036.88	0.15	10.28
11	Eggs Hen (Farm)	1 Dzn	242.98	222.63	240.38	9.14	1.08
12	Mustard Oil (Average Qty)	1 Kg	554.84	555.17	542.09	-0.06	2.35
13	Cooking Oil DALDA or Other Similar Brand (SN), 5 Litre	Each	2992.30	2985.11	2913.96	0.24	2.69
14	Vegetable Ghee DALDA/HABIB 2.5 kg Tin	Each	1516.17	1512.18	1482.73	0.26	2.26
15	Vegetable Ghee DALDA/HABIB or Other superior Quality 1 kg Pouch	Each	592.36	588.91	575.38	0.59	2.95
16	Bananas (Kela) Local	1 Dzn	196.93	212.21	182.93	-7.20	7.65
17	Pulse Masoor (Washed)	1 Kg	260.69	260.97	294.35	-0.11	-11.44
18	Pulse Moong (Washed)	1 Kg	389.88	388.49	396.84	0.36	-1.75
19	Pulse Mash (Washed)	1 Kg	473.46	465.34	461.89	1.74	2.50
20	Pulse Gram	1 Kg	250.12	249.55	309.75	0.23	-19.25

21	Potatoes	1 Kg	33.90	31.12	64.04	8.93	-47.06
22	Onions	1 Kg	74.43	68.13	54.83	9.25	35.75
23	Tomatoes	1 Kg	78.51	71.38	62.19	9.99	26.24
24	Sugar Refined	1 Kg	149.04	150.59	168.61	-1.03	-11.61
25	Gur (Average Quality)	1 Kg	223.95	225.14	213.31	-0.53	4.99
26	Salt Powdered (NATIONAL/SHAN) 800 gm	Each	63.00	63.00	72.34	0.00	-12.91
27	Chilies Powder NATIONAL 200 gm Packet	Each	368.65	368.65	320.00	0.00	15.20
28	Garlic (Lehsun)	1 Kg	471.72	513.80	450.24	-8.19	4.77
29	Tea Lipton Yellow Label 190gm	Each	447.06	447.06	452.21	0.00	-1.14

Increase in Prices



Decrease in price

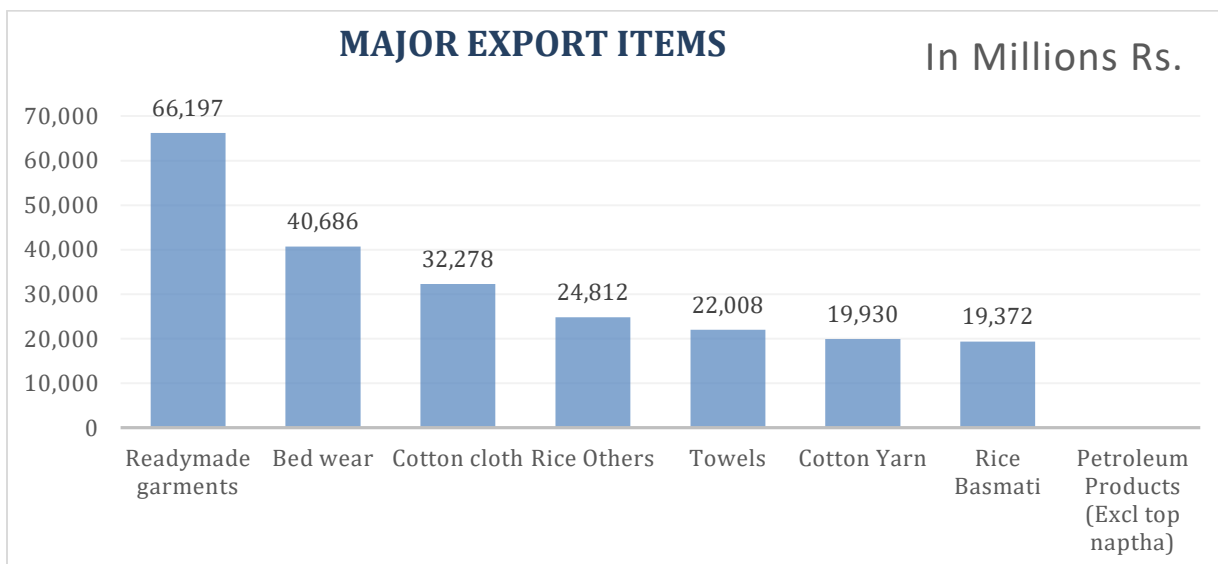


## 7. TRADE SITUATION

### EXPORTS

According to the provisional figures compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, exports from Pakistan during April, 2026 amounted to Rs.691,589 million (provisional) as against Rs. 632,318 million in March, 2026 and Rs. 610,190 million during April, 2025 showing an increase of 9.37% over March, 2026 and of 13.34% over April, 2025.

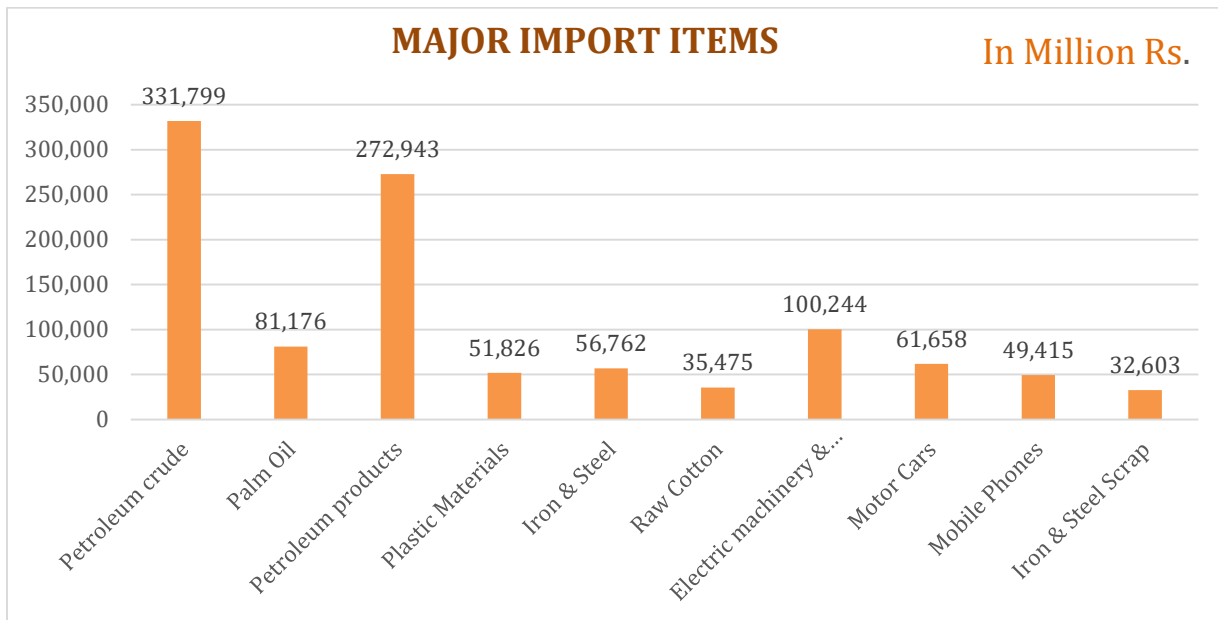
Exports during July – April, 2025 - 2026 totaled Rs.7,081,406 million (provisional) as against Rs.7,494,398 million during the corresponding period of last year showing a decrease of 5.51%.



## Imports

Imports into Pakistan during April, 2026 amounted to Rs. 1,889,719 million (provisional) as against Rs. 1,427,508 million in March, 2026 and Rs. 1,711,669 million during April, 2025 showing an increase of 32.38% over March, 2026 and of 10.40% over April, 2025.

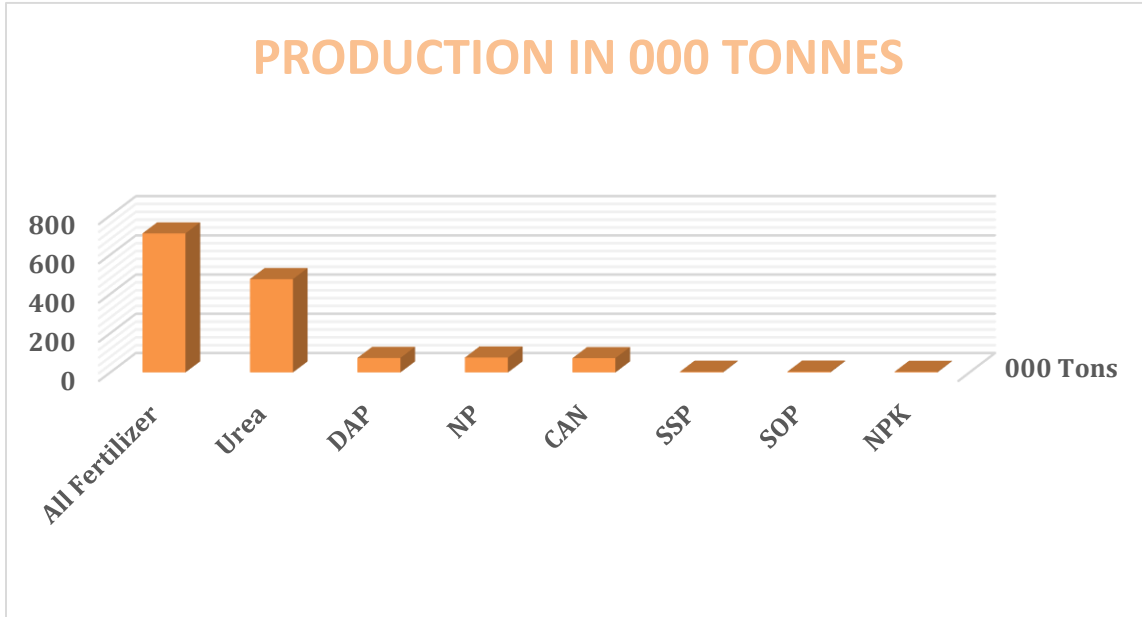
Imports during July – April, 2025 - 2026 totaled Rs. 16,141,381 million (provisional) as against Rs. 14,912,109 million during the corresponding period of last year showing an increase of 8.24%.



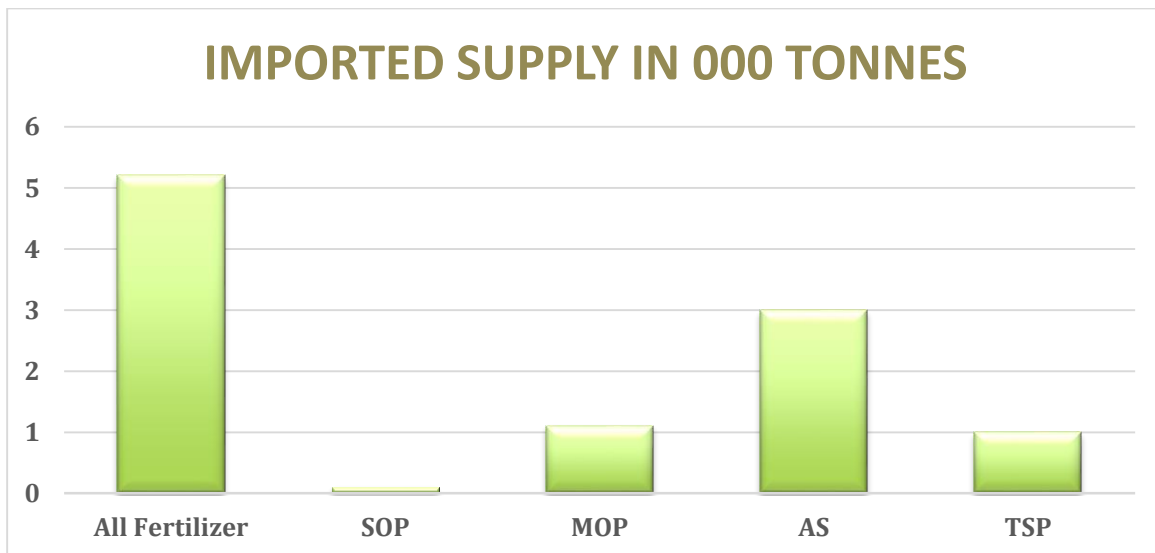
## 8. FERTILIZER OFFTAKE SITUATION

- Total nutrient offtake during April 2026 was 320 thousand tonnes, which increased by 44.1 per cent.
- Nitrogen and potash offtake was increased by 62 and 55.1 per cent, respectively
- Urea offtake was 463 thousand tonnes which increased by 84.9 per cent while DAP offtake was 85 thousand tonnes which decreased by 10.8 per cent over April 2025
- Phosphate offtake decreased by 5 per cent which is mainly attributed to its higher prices.

- Total domestic fertilizer production during April 2026 was 709 thousand tonnes. Urea and DAP production was 476 and 74 thousand tonnes, respectively. Production of other products i.e. NP, CAN, SSP, SOP and NPKs was 76, 73, 3.4, 4.1 and 3.1 thousand tonnes, respectively.



- Imported supplies comprised of 3 thousand tonnes of AS, 0.1 thousand tonne of SOP, 1.1 thousand tonne of MOP and one thousand tonne of TSP.



## 9. NEWS TRENDS

### **ADB to finance KP's agri sector project worth USD239.13m**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is expected to finance the USD239.13 million Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Resilient Irrigated Agriculture Livelihood Development Project (KPRIALDP). The project will support irrigation, water management, agricultural extension, research, forestry and wildlife sectors. Major components include rehabilitation of the Pehur Main Canal Command Area, development of new irrigated land in Mardan, Nowshera and Chitral, and promotion of smart irrigation and high-value crops.

### **Punjab enters era of agricultural mechanisation**

Punjab is promoting agricultural mechanisation through the Green Tractor Scheme and modern farm machinery support. Subsidies have been provided on 9,500 high-power tractors and 10,000 tractors (50–65 HP), while 20,000 more tractors are planned next year with enhanced subsidy rates. An interest-free loan scheme of up to Rs30 million has also been launched for high-tech farm machinery. Nearly 200 combine harvesters and 5,000 Super Seeders have been provided, helping reduce production costs, increase productivity and discourage crop residue burning. Another 5,000 Super Seeders are being distributed under Phase-II.

### **CCRI advises growers to adopt heatwave protection steps**

The Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI), Multan, has advised cotton growers to adopt precautionary measures during the forecast heatwave of 46°C–50°C. Recommendations include foliar application of Potassium Sulphate, Zinc Sulphate and Borax, light irrigation during cooler hours, and application of one bag of urea per acre at flowering and boll formation stages. Farmers have also been urged to control bollworm through timely removal of affected flowers, installation of pheromone traps and regular pest scouting.

### **Indus Water Treaty violations by India threaten rice production in KP**

Farmers and experts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have expressed concerns over the impact of India's reported violations of the Indus Water Treaty on irrigation water supplies. Rice cultivation in districts such as Swabi depends heavily on Indus River water, and any reduction in flows could affect crop production, exports and rural livelihoods. Experts warn that prolonged disruptions may threaten food security, increase poverty and adversely affect agriculture, livestock, fisheries and related sectors across Pakistan.

## 10. AGRO ADVISORY SERVICES FOR FARMERS

دھان	
☆	دھان کی بخیری کی کاشت کا وقت برائے موٹی اقسام (اری) 10 مئی تا 7 جون، قانن اقسام کیم جون 20 تا جون اور شاہین باستی 15 تا 30 جون جبکہ باہر اقسام کے لیے 20 مئی تا 15 جون ہے۔
☆	اچھے اور بہتر اگاؤ کیلئے بیج کو کاشت سے پہلے نیکین پانی میں (بمساب 25 گرام تک فی لیٹر) ڈالیں اور نیچے بیٹھ جانے والے بیجوں کو کاشت کریں۔
☆	☆ فصل کو پکانی اور بیجوں کے بھورے دھبوں والی جھسی تیار یوں سے محفوظ رکھنے کے لیے بیج کو پانی سے دو ہفتے پہلے پھپھوندی کش زہر تھائیو نیٹ میتھیکل 2 سے 25 گرام فی کلو بیج کو لگانے سے۔
☆	دھان کی منگور شدہ موٹی اقسام کے ایس 282 نیاب اری 9 اری کے ایس 6 کے ایس کے 133، کے ایس کے 434 اور نیاب 2013 جبکہ ہاتھی اقسام جیسا کہ پہر ہاتھی، ہاتھی 515، غیر ہاتھی اقسام بی ایس 2 اور بی کے۔ 388 کے بیج کا انتظام کریں۔
کپاس	
☆	کپاس کے مرکزی علاقہ جات میں فصل کی کاشت 31 مئی تک مکمل کر لیں۔ کاشت پٹریوں پر کریں اور ہموار زمین پر قطاروں میں کاشت کی صورت میں کوہلی آپاشی کے بعد پودوں کی ایک الاٹن چھوڑ کر دوسری الاٹن میں مٹی چڑھا کر پٹریاں بنائیں۔
☆	☆ ڈرل سے الاٹنوں میں کاشت کی گئی کپاس کو کوہلی آپاشی 3 سے 4 دن بعد اور پھر دوسری، تیسری اور چوتھی 6 سے 9 دن کے وقفے سے کریں۔
☆	☆ مخلوڑ رامت کی سفارش کردہ روایتی اقسام سی آئی ایم۔ 496 سی آئی ایم۔ 506، سی آئی ایم۔ 554 نیاب۔ 777، سی آئی ایم۔ 608، ایم این ایچ۔ 786، سی آر ایم۔ 38، سی آئی ایم۔ 573 ایس ایل ایچ۔ 317، ٹی۔ 115 نیاب۔ 852 نیاب کرن نیاب۔ 112، جی ایس۔ 1 سائٹو۔ 124، اور نیاب 2008 کاشت کریں۔
☆	☆ کھادوں کا متوازن استعمال اچھی پیداوار کے لیے نہایت ضروری ہے۔ مرکزی علاقہ جات میں کپاس کو 69 کلوگرام نائٹروجن، 35 کلوگرام فاسفورس اور 25 کلوگرام پوٹاش فی ایکڑ ڈالیں۔ جبکہ ثانوی علاقہ جات میں 58 کلوگرام نائٹروجن، 35 کلوگرام فاسفورس اور 25 کلوگرام پوٹاش فی ایکڑ ڈالیں۔
کھاد اور بہاریہ کی	
☆	☆ کھاد کی بھر پور فصل کے لیے بہاریہ کاشت کوئی 164 ایکڑ چائی پانی اور تھیر فصل کیلئے 180 ایکڑ چائی پانی درکار ہوتا ہے پانی کی کمی فی ایکٹر پیداوار پر برا اثر ڈالتی ہے۔ لہذا 10 سے 12 دن بعد کے وقفے سے آپاشی کرتے رہیں۔
☆	☆ بھی کی فصل کو مناسب وقفے سے آپاشی کریں پور آنے پر کسی صورت میں بھی پانی کی کمی نہ آنے دیں اور کھیت کو ہمیشہ تروتہر حالت میں رکھیں تاکہ دانہ بننے میں مدد مل سکے۔
☆	☆ بھی کی فصل کو آپاشی علاقوں میں ایتھ 3 اقساط میں ڈال جانے نائٹروجن 3 سے 5 پتے لگانے پر، 8 سے 10 پتے لگانے پر اور پھول آنے سے 14 سے 15 دن قبل سفارش کردہ مقدار کے مطابق ضرورتاً استعمال کریں۔
بہاریات و بانقات	
☆	☆ لہاری فصل کو صبح یا شام کے وقت توڑیں اور ان کو خشک کرنے کے لیے پانی سے دھو لیں تاکہ ان کی تازگی برقرار رہے۔
☆	☆ موسم گرما کی بہاریوں کی جہاں ضرورت ہو گوڈی کریں اور 8 سے 10 دن کے وقفے سے آپاشی کریں۔
☆	☆ آم کے بانقات میں آپاشی کا وقفہ 20 دن رکھیں۔

## SOURCES

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