

Sector: H-8/2, Islamabad.

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024

# Outlook for February-March-April (FMA), 2025

# **1. Global Climate Drivers:**

During the season FMA, 2025 negative phase of climate indicator like El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to make a transition to the neutral phase, whereas the neutral phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is expected to persist during the season. Based on the current atmospheric conditions, the climatic outlook for Pakistan is as follows:

## 2. Seasonal Outlook (Rainfall):

As per seasonal outlook **slightly below normal\*** rainfall is expected in northern parts of the country i.e., Northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern parts of Punjab and adjoining Kashmir. Whereas, the southern regions are likely to experience rainfall that is closer to normal, with a reduced negative anomaly as per the region's climatological patterns. The second half of the season is expected to be relatively wetter than the first half.



## 3. Seasonal Temperature Outlook:

Temperatures are expected to remain **above normal\*** nationwide with maximum departure over Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir and the adjoining areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



### 4. Impacts:

- Slightly below-normal rainfall may intensify soil moisture stress during dry periods in those areas which are already affected.
- The fog episodes are likely to subside gradually and will terminate during the first half of the season.
- Day time temperature would increase with the season throughout the country. Accordingly, irrigation at regular intervals would be required for standing crops.
- High temperatures could shorten the Rabi crop growing season's length in plains of Sindh and Punjab.
- The increase in maximum temperature along with dry condition would be supportive for early onset of pollen season in major cities (e.g. Islamabad/Rawalpindi and Lahore).
- The atmospheric conditions are suggestive for the likelihood of a heat wave development for a brief period of time towards the end of the season; especially over the southern parts of the country.

#### Note:

- Considering the dynamic nature of the climate system the outlook is updated monthly during the last week of each month.
- Seasonal Outlook vary in reliability based on location, time of year, and natural climate cycles (e.g., El Niño, IOD and MJO, etc.,). Confidence decreases for longer range (1-3 months).
- Seasonal Outlook provide general trends over large areas and timeframes using probabilities rather than precise predictions, the information is not specific to a point in time and location. Moreover, they compare expected conditions to historical averages rather than giving exact values.
- Seasonal Outlook should not be used in isolation but alongside shorter-term forecasts and climate information for better decision-making.