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FLASH DROUGHT ALERT-I

A significant increase in mean daily temperatures ranging from 5°C to 7°C above normal has resulted in heatwave-like conditions across Sindh, Punjab (including the Pothohar region), Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the past several days. This ongoing heatwave, combined with extended dry weather, has critically reduced soil moisture levels, particularly in drought-prone areas of the country.

1. Based on the current meteorological conditions and the forthcoming fortnightly outlook, there is an increasing likelihood of flash drought development in key agricultural zones. These include maize, sugarcane, and cotton-growing areas of Sindh, Punjab, eastern Balochistan, and southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
2. The National Drought Monitoring & Early Warning Centre (NDMC) of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) is continuously monitoring climatic conditions across the country. Considering the ongoing rainfall deficit and persistent rise in temperatures, the potential emergence of flash drought in the coming days could pose a serious threat to standing crops and livestock.
3. The prevailing high temperatures are expected to increase water consumption and pumping rates, which could significantly reduce water levels in small dams and reservoirs across rainfed regions, including Khanpur and Simly.
4. All relevant stakeholders are strongly advised to implement precautionary and adaptive measures in vulnerable areas to mitigate the potential impacts of the flash drought. The judicious use of water resources is highly recommended. Farmers and agricultural practitioners are encouraged to stay informed by regularly consulting updates available on the PMD website: <http://www.pmd.gov.pk>

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