



Flood Impact on Pakistan's Rice Crop

“Separating Facts from Rumors”

Flood Impact on Rice in Pakistan 2025 (Facts vs. Rumors)



Aspect	Rumors / Exaggerated Claims (Media)	Facts / Verified (REAP, Exporters)
Rice Crop Loss	60% of Punjab's rice crop destroyed	Only 10.1% of Punjab's rice crop affected.
Sugarcane	30% crop loss	Limited damage; REAP did not confirm large-scale losses
Cotton	35% crop shortfall expected	Cotton fields affected but not to catastrophic levels reported (1.7%) loss reported.
Acreage Affected	1.5–1.9 million acres flooded (Punjab)	Damage localized; crops loss estimated within 654k acres
GDP / Economy	Floods to shave 0.8% off GDP; Rs 409 billion losses (PBF/Arif Habib est.)	Agriculture loss is real, but rice remains largely secure; export supply intact
Export Outlook	"Exports at risk; Pakistan may not meet commitments"	REAP assures export capacity remains strong ; Pakistan can meet buyers' needs
Market Impact	Panic of shortages → hoarding & speculation	Price rise mainly due to speculation; global buyers reassured by REAP
Credibility	Early, unverified, panic-driven numbers	Based on official + independent assessments; internationally reliable

Source: Agri dept. Punjab, Arab News, Khaleej Times, Profit (by Pakistan) & Business Recorder.

Pakistan's Rice Crop 2025: Reality Check Beyond the Flood Headlines



- Despite early fears of massive destruction, the actual damage to Pakistan's rice crop from the recent floods appears far less severe than rumored. While some reports exaggerated losses at nearly **60%**, the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (**REAP**) has clarified that only about **10–12%** of the crop was affected. Our own independent assessment places the damage even lower, between **7–10%** at most, with the hardest hit being non-Basmati rice.
- Adding to this assurance, **REAP Chairman Malik Faisal** has also confirmed the crop loss estimates, aligning with independent assessments and countering exaggerated claims.
Reference link here (Ctrl+click): [[REAP Confirms Verified Crop Loss Estimates](#)].
- The country's premium Basmati rice remains largely safe. Even in the worst-affected zones, damage to Basmati fields does not exceed **5–6%**. Key varieties such as **1718**, **1509**, and **1121** show resilience, while Super Basmati, though smaller in share, also avoided major harm. Importantly, the majority of affected farmland lies along riverbanks, while the broader rice-growing regions remain intact.
- Harvest patterns further support this outlook. In Punjab and certain areas of Sindh, farmers have already begun harvesting **IRRI-6**, while the Basmati crop is still maturing and will be ready in the next five to six weeks. This timeline provides both reassurance for local markets and confidence for international buyers that Pakistan's rice supply chain remains steady.

Flood Damage and Productivity Changes in Punjab's Agricultural Sector



- Despite the floods, Pakistan's rice sector shows resilience, with expansion in **cultivation and improved yield potential** this season;
 - Cultivation area expanded by **≈10% compared to last year**.
 - Yield potential expected to rise by **≈20–25% due to replenished soil and fresh water**.
- Taken together, these factors indicate that the overall loss to the rice crop is negligible. Instead, the season may deliver **stronger yields in many regions**, further stabilizing supply for both domestic and international markets.
- At the same time, **Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb** has issued a **clear warning** that **hoarding and profiteering will not be tolerated**. He emphasized that federal and provincial authorities, supported by law enforcement agencies, have been directed to take strict action against those attempting to **exploit the situation by stockpiling rice and other essential commodities**. The government has made it clear that such practices pose a direct threat to market stability and will be dealt with firmly to safeguard both consumers and exporters.
- At **Rice News Today**, we remain in close touch with industry leaders and stakeholders, ensuring that only authentic, verified, and timely updates are delivered to our readers. Our commitment is to cut through misinformation and provide clarity for all those connected to Pakistan's rice sector.

Crops	Total Punjab Area Sown (000 acres)	Loss Expected Area (000 acres)	Loss Expected Share (%)
Cotton	3,126	55	1.7%
Sugarcane	2,114	106	5.0%
Rice (clean)	6,450	654	10.1%
Maize (Aut)	1,440	92	6.4%
Sesame	1,110	60	5.4%
Fodder	4,603	334	7.2%
Vegetables	115	30	25.8%
Grand Total	18,958	1,329	6.3%

Source: Crop Reporting Service, Agriculture Deptt, Punjab

Apart from Exaggerated Crop Loss Claims, Urban Flooding Was the Genuine Crisis

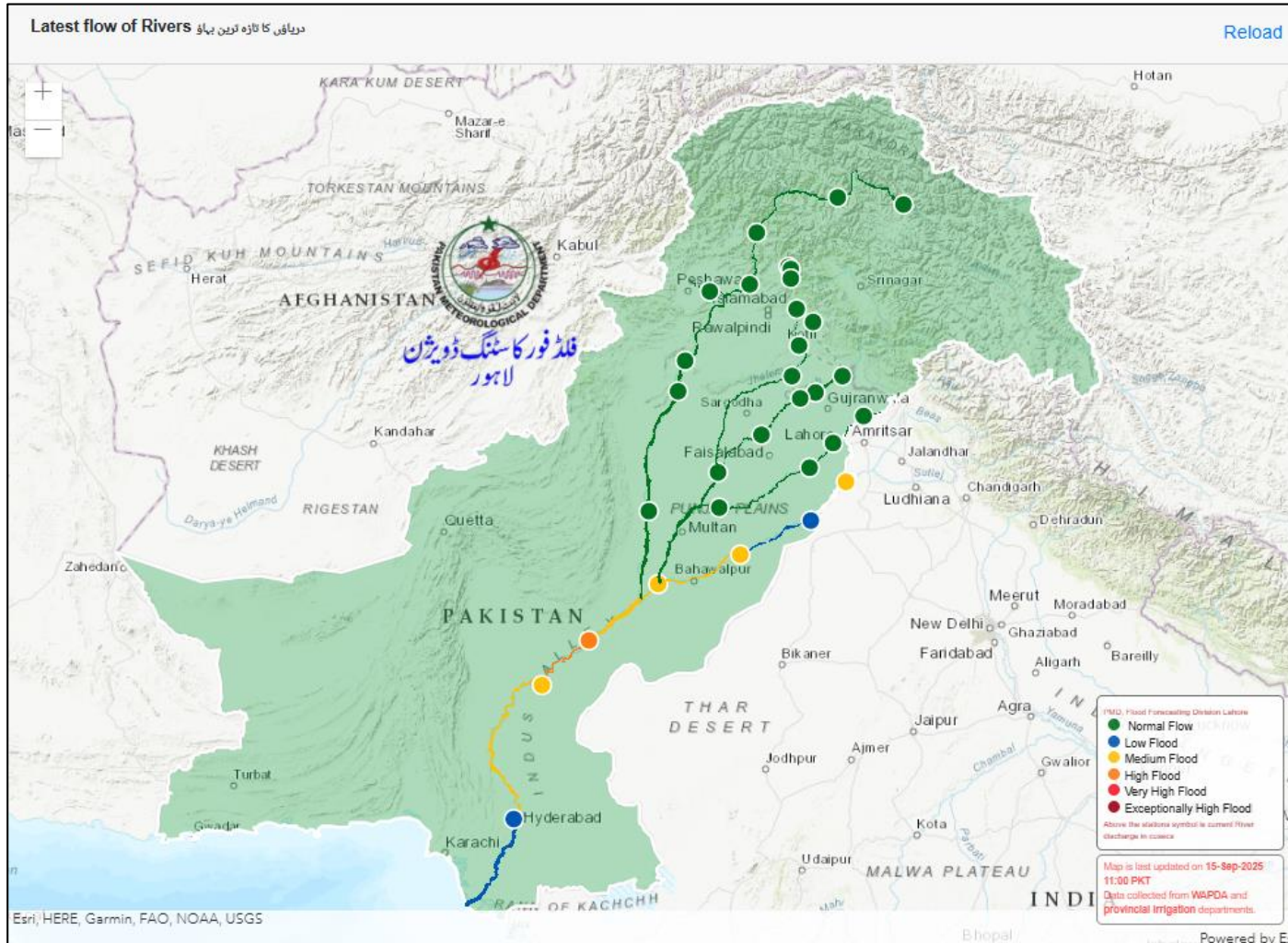
- In recent weeks, various **WhatsApp groups** have been actively spreading exaggerated figures and misleading claims about flood damage. These groups, possibly acting on behalf of **stockiest**, appear to be creating panic in order to **influence prices** and **disrupt trade flows**. Stockiest, in particular, seem to be taking advantage of the current situation, which has temporarily **affected the market rates of certain rice varieties**. However, this impact is expected to be short-lived, as the situation will normalize within the next four to five weeks once the new **Basmati crop** begins arriving in the market. Such misinformation, if left unchecked, risks undermining the credibility of Pakistan's rice sector in the eyes of both local stakeholders and international buyers.
- ✓ At **Rice News Today**, we are committed to countering these rumors by providing authentic, reliable, and timely information. Our reports are based on verified sources such as **REAP**, government agencies, and international organizations. To further enhance transparency, we are preparing to introduce drone-based field footage and satellite data access from **NASA**, **USDA**, and **FAO**. These tools will provide independent, real-time insights into crop conditions, reinforcing our role as the trusted source for factual reporting in the rice trade.

Urban Flooding in Punjab-2025	Figure (as of early Sept 2025)
Deaths	≈ 849
Injuries	≈ 1,130
People affected	≈ 2 million+
Villages submerged	≈ 2,300+
Houses damaged/destroyed	≈ 4,000+
Relief camps established	≈ 511
People in camps	≈ 300,000+
Livestock evacuated	≈ 516,000
Livestock rescued	≈ 405,000
Rescue resources	≈ 800 boats, 1,300 personnel

Sources: AP, REUTERS, AL JAZEERA, AFP, OCHA, ICIMOD, PDMA, NDMA

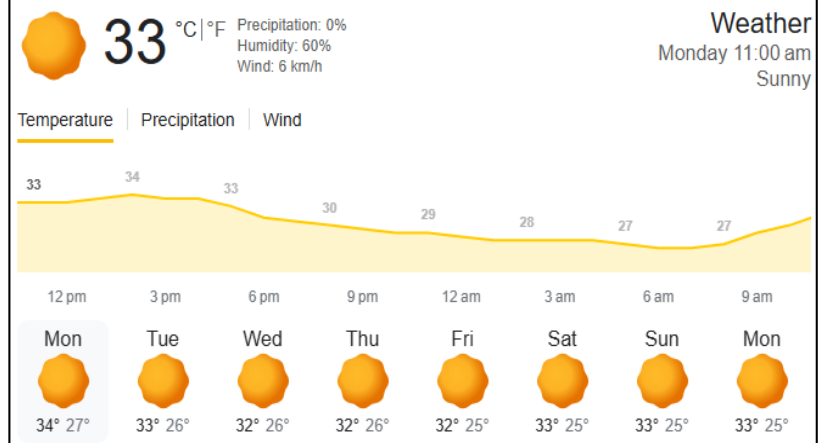
“Ultimately, the real burden of this disaster was borne by the poor, who lost their homes, livestock, and livelihoods as urban flooding disrupted entire communities and shattered local infrastructure.”

Below map shows Pakistan's river system and flood-affected crop zones.



Weather Outlook

The latest forecast shows mostly sunny and stable conditions in the coming weeks. This will help floodwaters recede, support crop recovery, and allow farmers to begin harvesting on time. The outlook brings relief, with no immediate threat of further flooding expected.

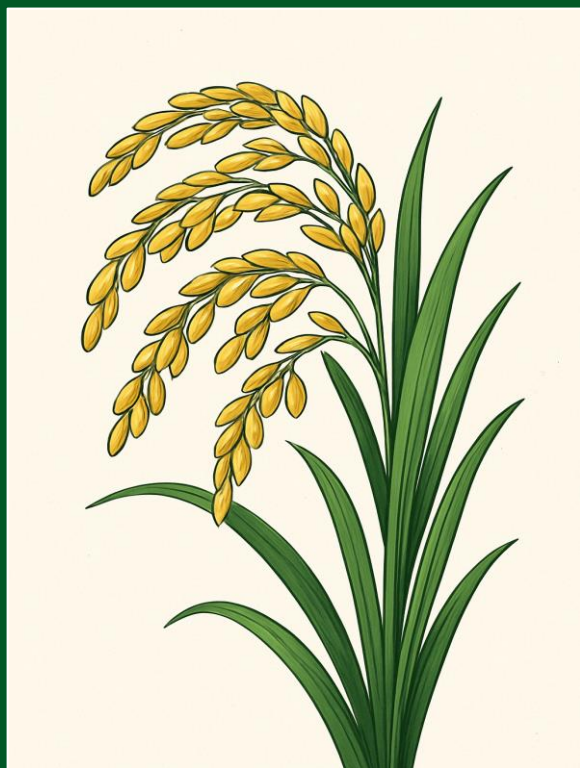


Source: Google Weather

Forecast from Thursday (15 sept 2025 & onwards)

For interactive overview & detailed view, please ctrl+click here [<https://ffd.pmd.gov.pk/home>].

Updated on 15-sept-2025 --- 12:00pm



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