

Pakistan: flood damage assessment of sindh



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The worst ever floods in Pakistan's history have destroyed homes, ravaged land and put the livelihoods of millions on a standstill. A complete assessment of losses is yet to be made as floodwaters continue to deluge parts of the Sindh province.

As this report is being filed, the flooding is battering the Dadu and Jamshoro districts of Sindh due to the overflowing of Manchar Lake. Overall, 19 out of Sindh's 23 districts have been affected and approximately 7 million people displaced, according to provincial authorities[1]. Adviser to Sindh CM on Planning and Development Dr Qaiser Bengali stated that the damage in more than 40 towns and 7, 500 villages of the eight worst affected districts (excluding Thatta and Dadu districts where survey has yet to be completed), was estimated at Rs. 446.

8 billion which includes damages of Rs. 122. 1 billion in the agriculture sector[2]. Infrastructure According to the adviser, the flood waters have damaged 8, 000 kilometers of road network, 100 health centers, 1, 021, 000 housing units, 4, 600 educational institutions and municipal services in some 43 towns have been destroyed[3]. Dr Bengali informed that losses to the irrigation system have been estimated at Rs.

52 billion, road infrastructure Rs. 37. 5 billion, housing Rs. 134. 3 billion, health Rs.

2. 6 billion, educational institutions Rs. 26. 9 billion, municipal infrastructure Rs. 40 billion, and government buildings Rs.

10 billion[4]. Industry According to information received from districts Kandhkot-Kashmore, Shikarpur, Sukkur, Jacobabad, Larkana and Kambar-Shahdadkot, about 315 rice mills in the districts on the right bank of Indus in Sindh have been damaged by the floods[5]. The flooding also damaged the plant and machinery of the Larh Sugar Mill causing capital loss. Only 28 sugar mills will start crushing this season as Larh Sugar Mill is out of production[6]. Complete details of damage to industrial units in other areas (such as Dadu, Jamshoro and Thatta districts) are still awaited as flood waters have yet to recede. A total of 13 units, 11 of them rice mills, were damaged in Jacobabad.

The claims submitted by the owners estimate the loss per unit at Rs1. 2 to 1. 5 million. Eight industrial units, mostly rice mills, were damaged by floods In Taluka Garhi Khairo, causing average per unit loss of Rs2. 5 million.

A total of 35 units were affected by floods in Taluka Thul where the loss per unit has been estimated at Rs2 million. In district Kashmore-Kandhkot, 11 units were wrecked by the flooding with an average per unit loss of Rs2. 5 million. Agriculture The agriculture sector, which is the backbone of the provincial economy, has been dealt a severe blow as the flood waters have damaged prime agricultural land and washed away standing crops and various grain stocks.

Dr Bangali said that the agriculture sector had suffered losses of Rs. 122. 1 billion and the livestock sector suffered losses of Rs. 11. 4 billion due to the flooding. The adviser said that over 2.

2 million acres of crop land was under water, 3 million metric tons of agriculture crop damaged and some 0.2 million livestock killed[7]. The districts where near-harvest crops of rice, sugarcane, cotton, maize and different vegetables have been ruined include Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Kashmore-Kandhkot, Qambar-Shahdadkot, Ghotki, Jacobabad, Khairpur, Nawabshah, Naushero Feroz, Larkana, Thatta, Jamshoro and Dadu. Below is a rundown of the estimated losses to the various crops in Sindh.

Cotton The 'initial' estimates of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (Minfal) suggest that the cotton target of 14 million bales might be missed by 2-3 million bales which may end up costing the country \$1 billion in cotton imports[8]. Dr Bengali put the losses to the cotton crop in Sindh at Rs. 32.2 billion[9]. **Wheat** Nearly 700,000 acres of standing Kharif crops are under water or have been destroyed.

The government of Sindh has estimated the losses to the wheat crop at Rs. 12.5 billion[10]. Additionally hundreds of thousands of farming families have lost their seed stocks which will further amplify losses and negatively impact next year's crop.

Sugarcane The Sindh government has estimated the losses to the sugarcane crop at Rs. 11.6 billion. However, these are preliminary estimates that are bound to change as the floods make their way out of Dadu, Jamshoro and Thatta. Flood water also entered Larh Sugar Mill causing capital loss to the machinery and plant[11]. **Rice** Jacobabad, Kashmore-Khandhkot, Larkana, Shikarpur and Qambar-Shahdadkot districts are the major Irri-6 paddy growing areas with an average of 1.

2 million tons of rice output annually. Sindh has reportedly lost 0.85 million tons of rice to the flooding[12]. The Sindh Government has estimated the losses to the rice crop at Rs. 28.9 billion.

About 315 rice mills in the districts on the right bank of Indus in Sindh have also been damaged by the floods. Due to the uncertain supply of the crop, the paddy processing industry may also suffer severe losses[13].

Livestock According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the province of Sindh has lost 250,000 large animals, 300,000 small animals and nearly 5 million poultry. A total of 33,000 animal sheds have also been damaged in Sindh[14].

Surviving animals are weak and at risk of disease and starvation. The loss of draught animal power will seriously compromise the ability of farmers to cultivate their land. The Sindh Government estimates losses to the livestock and fisheries sector at Rs. 11.8 billion.